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Meet the candidates standing in next week's general election - pages four and five

IN BUSINESS ADVERTISING/ADVERTORIAL FEATURE IN BUSINESS
LOCAL NEEDS, LOCAL SERVICES

Huge strides made in recycling says council

RECYCLING officers at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have praised residents who have put the county borough almost top of the Welsh league.

Bridgend county borough's latest recycling rate is 69.4 per cent, which places BCBC in second place in the recycling table, made up of 22 local authorities, just behind the Isle of Anglesey (69.9 per cent).

It means that BCBC is ahead of the Welsh Government target, which is to hit at least a 64 per cent recycling rate by April 2020, or face heavy fines.

In 2025, the Welsh Government's recycling target will rise again to 70 per cent.

Cllr Hywel Williams, BCBC's deputy leader, said: "It's not easy to get used to new recycling systems, learning what you can and can't recycle, but local residents have consistently adapted their habits to do their bit for the environment.

"We introduced our current recycling arrangements in 2017 with the Welsh Government's new recycling targets in mind and are very pleased with the results. Recycling has become the norm in Bridgend county borough. It's what we do, and I'd like to thank all local residents for their commitment to recycling."

A timeline of recycling in Bridgend county borough.

2004 – Bridgend county borough's recycling rate is 15 per cent.

2006 – the recycling rate rises to 26 per cent.

2011 – the recycling rate is up to 48 per cent.

2016 – the recycling rate reaches 59 per cent.

2019 – the recycling rate is now 69.4 per cent.

Christmas lights and fireworks light up Maesteg for the festive season

It was a great day when Maesteg switched on its Christmas lights, with a parade in the afternoon and a fireworks display at night. Photograph by Phil Davies. To see more photos from the event, see page 15.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Grateful thanks for help

THANK you to the very kind people who helped my husband and I when we were involved in a car accident two weeks last Sunday in Ogmore.

We were walking wounded and taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend. We were shaken, but not stirred!

A lady in yellow wellies phoned the emergency services and a very kind lady took my Westie Rosie home to my neighbour in Rhoose for us.

Thank you all again for the kindness shown to us.

Penny and Vic Harris, Rhoose.

Support children with cancer this Christmas

CHRISTMAS is a magical time for families to enjoy all the lovely things about the festive season – from decorating the tree to visiting Santa's Grotto, to spending time with your loved ones.

But when you're a child going through cancer treatment, that's all at risk.

I work for CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading cancer charity for children and young people, and we've started our Christmas campaign this December to highlight how cancer can cost children their Christmas. We are now asking the public for their support so that we can be there for these families helping to keep them together this festive season, and beyond.

With the community's support, donations will help fund CLIC Sargent's Homes from Home service, which provides free accommodation for families near hospitals, so they can be close to their child while facing cancer this Christmas. Your support will also mean CLIC Sargent social workers, based in hospitals and out in the community can be there to provide practical, emotional and financial support.

As well as donating, there are other ways to support children and young people with cancer this Christmas, from collecting stamps to visiting the charity's online shop for Christmas shopping.

As we approach the end of the year, I'd like to say a personal thank you to everyone in the community who has supported CLIC Sargent this year. Your help and generosity means CLIC Sargent can continue to be there for more children and young people in south Wales facing cancer.

To donate to CLIC Sargent's Christmas appeal and for more information, visit www.clicsargent.org.uk/christmas, call 0300 330 0803 or text GIVE to 70030 to donate £5. Texts cost £5 plus one standard network rate message. CLIC Sargent will receive 100% of your donation. To opt out of calls, text NOCALL CLIC to 78866. To opt out of SMS, text NOSMS CLIC to 78866. (Texts will be charged at your network's standard message charge.) If you have any questions, call CLIC Sargent on 0300 3300803. Registered charity in England and Wales (1107328) and Scotland (SC039857).

Cerys Sadler, CLIC Sargent South and Mid Wales Fundraising Engagement Manager.

A plea to fishermen to think of safety

IT was a beautiful Monday morning at Barry Island, cold, dry and frosty with a stunning sunrise and I was thoroughly enjoying my morning walk with the dogs until we got up onto Friars Point.

I suddenly noticed that my Jack Russell was chomping on something and luckily I was close at hand to see what was happening. She had got hold of a fishing hook still with part of the line and bait attached, which is what attracted her, and fortunately I managed to carefully extract it from her mouth without problems.

It would have been a total 'dogtastrophe' if she had chewed on it or even managed to swallow it as it could have embedded in her cheek, tongue or gullet.

No one wants to stop people enjoying their leisure pursuits and I know people fish overnight, but they do use lanterns and head torches which are very bright and hopefully clean up after themselves.

This is a simple plea to all fishermen to think of other people's safety – please be careful with hooks and don't leave them lying around, this one could have been picked up by a child or a dog could have stepped on it or worse still, swallowed it.

Joy Strangward, Barry.

Why so many empty properties?

BEING a regular visitor to Bridgend, I have noticed the number of properties still unoccupied in the town.

Being a former postman, I have noticed that the former Post Office is still empty after many years. The Dunraven Hotel and York pub are also still empty.

Local people ask 'What are BCBC doing about it?", but in my opinion, they should ask "What are the owners of the properties doing about it?"

I understand that a family in the area own a lot of land and properties – I cannot understand why they do not work with BCBC when grants are available to improve these properties.

On a positive note, I have noticed excellent work being carried out in Nolton Street by BCBC for the local housing association.

Jeff Williams, Bridgend.

NFU Cymru says BBC documentary was unfair to Welsh farmers

IT'S high time the BBC introduced the same investigative 'reality check' for its own commissioned programmes as it does for statements made by others who hold positions of responsibility and influence in public life.

I refer to the *Meat: A Threat to our Planet* documentary aired by the BBC on Monday, November 25, which failed to accurately explain to the British public the environmental impact of eating meat.

The hour-long documentary focused almost entirely on American production systems that bear no resemblance to farming systems here in the UK, leaving the audience with the misleading impression that all meat is produced in this way.

The reality of food production here in Wales is very different; Welsh farmers produce some of the most climate friendly meat in the world and have an ambition to reach net zero agricultural emissions by 2040.

The distinct lack of context in the broadcast meant viewers were not notified that Welsh beef production systems are 2.5 times more efficient than the global average.

Nor were viewers informed that the vast majority of Welsh beef is produced using grass-based diets, with over 85 per cent of the water used to produce a kilogram of beef coming from rainfall.

The important message consumers should be getting is they can purchase Welsh produce safe in the knowledge that they are buying a safe, quality and affordable product that has been produced to the highest animal welfare and sustainability standards.

John Davies, NFU Cymru President

Coffee morning success

ON behalf of the Cowbridge Committee of Cancer Research UK, I would like to thank the supporters of our recent coffee morning in the Penny Farthing Cafe when the event raised more than £1,000.

Thanks also go to the cafe staff and Mo, who helped the morning run so smoothly.

The committee appreciates the help Cowbridge and surrounding areas give to raising funds for Cancer Research and to The GEM for publicising these efforts.

Fran Davies, on behalf of Cowbridge Committee for Cancer Research UK.

'Wowed' of Llantwit Major says...

WOW – Llantwit Major has been transformed to a wonderful winter wonderland scene thanks to the fantastic lights and Christmas trees that envelope the town.

Congratulations to all those involved for doing an amazing job. This year's lights are the best – ever.

Beryl Vaughan, Llantwit Major.

Thanks to some Good Samaritans

THANK you to the people who helped me move my car to a safe place after I broke down at Barry Island Harbour Rd traffic lights late Tuesday evening.

I panicked and forgot to thank them properly.

Jenny Dumble, BARRY.

Local generosity benefited Poppy Appeal

AFTER the commemoration of the centenary of World War One last year, there was some concern that the Poppy Appeal this year could be a bit of an anticlimax – anything but!

The businesses, schools, people, and organisations of Cowbridge and the surrounding villages were, once again, exceedingly generous with their donations, clearly demonstrating their support for the Poppy Appeal.

The large poppies on lamp posts remembering the men who gave their lives were in evidence in Cowbridge, Llanblethian, Llysworney, Pendoylan and St Mary Church; those in St Mary Church were made by the Llanfair school children.

In Cowbridge, around 100 local businesses displayed the large felt poppies, publicly showing their support of the appeal.

Of these, 20-plus went further and helped Paint the Town Red by producing some very attractive and highly imaginative window displays.

All these factors combined to create a very positive ambience throughout the area.

I must pass on my sincere thanks to all who supported the 2019 Poppy Appeal, the people, businesses, schools, local organisations and charities that combined to make the event a success.

Outstanding this year were Cowbridge Comprehensive School who contributed almost £1,000 to the appeal; indicative perhaps that the younger generation also understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by our brave service personnel.

I must also publicly thank all the volunteer collectors who worked so hard, sometimes in the most diabolical weather conditions.

They are an exceptional team to work with and I thank each and every one for their tremendous support.

The total collected this year in the schools, shops, businesses and on the streets this year was almost £15,500; marginally down on last year which we knew was exceptional, but still a very creditable amount.

Next year the 75th anniversary of both VE and VJ day, and the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain will once again bring to the fore the contribution made to the country by our armed services: making 2020 just that little bit special.

If you would like to be part of it and help with the Poppy Appeal collection or in any other way, please contact me on 01446 774306.

David Howell, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Cowbridge.

Send us your letters, stories, photos and sports reports

HIGH TIDE TIMES

The high tides listed in this week's Gem are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tides times will vary. For instance, in Barry the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

UNTIL DECEMBER 12

Date	Time	Height (metres)
05/12/2019	00.14	7.5
05/12/2019	12.53	7.6
06/12/2019	01.32	7.5
06/12/2019	14.06	7.7
07/12/2019	02.44	7.8
07/12/2019	15.06	8.0
08/12/2019	03.38	8.3
08/12/2019	15.57	8.4
09/12/2019	04.23	8.5
09/12/2019	16.41	8.8
10/12/2019	04.59	8.9
10/12/2019	17.22	9.2
11/12/2019	05.41	9.3
11/12/2019	17.58	9.5
12/12/2019	06.17	9.6
12/12/2019	18.39	9.8

While the Gem makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP Birmingham.

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Police probe teaching assistant's unexplained death

POLICE are investigating the unexplained death of a 31-year-old man who was found dead at a property in the Brackla area of Bridgend on Sunday morning (December 1).

A post-mortem examination concluded the man, a teaching assistant at Ysgol Bryn Castell School, did not die from an assault or injury.

News of the examination's findings came as other media outlets speculated that the man had been struck with a chair during an incident involving a pupil.

But a South Wales Police spokesman stressed: "This death is still being treated as unexplained. Despite guidance, the media continues to publish speculation which is causing a great deal of distress to the family and school."

The force official added: "Following results of a post-mortem carried out by a Home Office pathologist, there is no evidence to suggest an assault or injury.

"An inquest into the death will be held in due course. We request that the family is allowed privacy at this sad time."

Ysgol Bryn Castell School was closed on Monday, December 2 while officers investigated the death.

Election candidate removed from council for not attending meetings

A FORMER Pencoed town councillor who is currently standing as the Conservative candidate in the Bridgend constituency was booted off the town council last year after he failed to attend a single meeting for six months in a row.

Jamie Wallis was elected as a town councillor for the Hendre ward in May 2017 but in August 2018 the town council had to advertise the position because he didn't attend any meeting for six consecutive months.

Pencoed Town Council clerk Geraint Thomas said Dr Wallis' last recorded attendance at a council meeting was in February 2018, and the council had not received any notification in advance of his absence.

Dr Wallis said the reason why he didn't attend was because he had moved away from Pencoed, to Cowbridge, adding that he had sent a resignation letter to the town council by post and assumed it had been received.

He said: "The relationship between myself and some of the Labour councillors on Pencoed Town Council had deteriorated to a point where I didn't want to communicate by email or telephone.

"I sent my resignation letter by post, I assumed they had got it – I had no contact from them whatsoever except for six months later when they sent me a notice saying I was no longer a town councillor because of my non-attendance.

"By that stage I had taken up a position on Cowbridge Town Council."

Dr Wallis, who has a PhD in planetary astronomy and science according to his LinkedIn profile, said he couldn't recall exactly when he left Pencoed because the moving process had taken a few months with work being done on the new home.

He said: "I lived in Pencoed for a fairly long time from 2008 up to when I moved.

"I wanted to be Pencoed town councillor because I lived there and my business is based there as well.

"I joined the town council of Cowbridge where I served as a town councillor until I resigned when I was selected in August this year to fight the seat of Bridgend for the Conservative party."

Asked what he would say to electors who might be worried about his lack of attendance, he said: "During my time as a town councillor, and up until I made the decision to leave, I fulfilled my obligation.

"I was an enthusiastic and passionate member on both town councils."

Mr Wallis' businesses comprise the Fields Group, a group of businesses involved in IT and digital marketing, and the law firm, Endeavour Law.

Mr Thomas said the town council ended up co-opting someone to fill the vacancy.

Liz Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

New approach to free swimming

FOLLOWING a Welsh Government review of the national free swimming initiative across Wales, changes have been made to the ways in which free swimming is provided in Bridgend County Borough.

Welsh Government wants to increase the number of disadvantaged young people taking advantage of the programme, and has updated the scheme to reflect this.

Through its partnership with Halo Leisure, the council has also arranged for two hours of free swimming per week for the over-60s at each of its five pools, with one session in the morning and another in the afternoon.

Older people who prefer to swim outside the free sessions can benefit from a concessionary rate of £2.15 per swim, while people swimming twice a week or more can take advantage of a monthly membership for £16.50.

For more disadvantaged older people, the 'access to leisure' scheme will offer a reduced rate of just £1.60 per swim or a monthly rate of £10.25 which also provides them with access to a full range of activities.

Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations, said: "Bridgend County Borough has the highest number of people aged 60 and over who are using the free swimming initiative in Wales. It's important to ensure that they can continue to benefit as well as younger swimmers and I'd like to thank our leisure partners Halo for working with us to achieve this. BCBC has traditionally been a big supporter of the national free swimming initiative, and the council has developed a range of additional opportunities to ensure that older adults can remain active and children can learn to live healthier lifestyles."

Talks over beauty spot's future still 'ongoing'

THERE'S now just one month to go before Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) walks away from running the Kenfig National Nature Reserve – and a lease has yet to be signed for its future management.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is planning to take on a long-term lease for the reserve, but said discussions on the management lease were still ongoing.

The reserve comprises around 1,300 acres of managed coastal sand dunes and wetlands on the coastline between Porthcawl and Port Talbot, and is regarded as one of the finest examples of a sand dune habitat in Europe.

The reserve is home to many rare species of plants, insects, birds and animals.

It contains the UK's entire population of the fen orchid and Kenfig Pool which, at 70 acres, is the largest natural lake in south Wales.

Last month NRW said it was undertaking due diligence checks after concluding it was best placed to manage the conservation interests at the site. BCBC's lease for the management of the reserve expires at the end of December.

Cabinet members voted to leave the site at a meeting in December 2018, saying that the local authority did not have the expertise to maintain the reserve into the future.

It brings to a close several decades of site management by local government.

The council has previously spoken of its frustration with the landowners, the Kenfig Corporation Trust (KCT), for not working with officers to appoint a successor earlier to enable a suitable handover period.

In recent months more than 3,000 people have signed a petition to raise concerns over the apparent slow progress of a new organisation taking on the reserve.

Cabinet member for education and regeneration Charles Smith said: "I am informed that a new lease has not yet been signed, but talks between NRW and KCT are ongoing and positive.

"BCBC assets are being removed off site, to give the landowner vacant possession.

"All services to the site, including litter collection, will then be the responsibility of KCT."

He added: "NRW have indicated that they'll not make use of the centre building as a visitor centre, so its future use is for KCT to decide.

"It's the hope of cabinet members that in due course a conservation body such as National Trust, RSPB, or similar, will be interested in a partnership with NRW for this and other aspects of the visitor experience, but that is now entirely in the hands of KCT and NRW.

"It's also our hope that the toilets will remain open to the public. They have been serviced by BCBC personnel with generous sponsorship from Cornelly Community Council. So from January 1, 2020 BCBC will no longer be the only council in Britain operating a nature reserve with the 'premier league' national and European designations enjoyed by Kenfig.

"I am sure that our successors will ensure that it will continue to be a wonderful place for our future generations."

A spokesman for the trust said: "Negotiations are still ongoing."

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Meet Bridgend's Parliamentary hopefuls

VOTERS across the country will be heading to polling stations in just one week's time to decide who they want to see representing them in Westminster.

Candidates have spent the last few weeks on the campaign trail trying hard to convince residents to get behind them.

Incumbent Labour MP Madeleine Moon will be fighting to retain her seat, which she has held since 2005, with the Conservative's Jamie Wallis attempting to take it off her.

Nigel Farage's recently formed Brexit Party is fielding Robert Morgan and the Liberal Democrats have chosen Jonathan Pratt to contest the seat.

Alex Harris, from the Green Party, and Plaid Cymru's Leanne Lewis have both also thrown their hats into the ring in the hope of securing a place in Parliament.

On this page, readers will be able to find out a little bit more about Bridgend's six Parliamentary hopefuls.

Alex Harris
(Green Party)

IN 2017, I became the first Green Party councillor on Porthcawl Town Council.

I've been instrumental in passing a plastic free motion on the council, and we are close to achieving Plastic Free status.

I'm a supporter of Sustainable Wales and its work to create a community energy project and I'm proud to be a signatory on its letter asking Bridgend BCBC to declare a climate emergency.

I work in the construction industry, primarily for main contractors on social housing and office refurbishments.

It gives me great satisfaction to see tenants move into homes that are comfortable, well-insulated and will reduce fuel poverty.

I'm excited by the Green party pledge to integrate social justice with action on climate change by investing £100 billion per year on a Green New Deal which will provide training and apprenticeships. As the economy moves away from fossil fuels this investment is just what Bridgend needs.

Leanne Lewis
(Plaid Cymru)

I WAS born in Pontypridd and raised in the Rhondda.

I attended Ysgol Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen.

I've lived in Pencoed for 15 years. I trained as a nurse at East Glamorgan Hospital and attended the University of Glamorgan and Swansea University. I have a busy life as a mother, nurse and post graduate student.

Family is everything to me, my parents taught me anything is possible and instilled my work ethic along with my passion for social justice.

For me, Plaid is the change needed. Growing up in the Rhondda it was instilled Labour was the only choice.

Plaid offers an alternative choice for Wales. The people of Wales deserve a voice in Westminster. The two main parties won't fight for people of Bridgend or Wales.

If the people of Bridgend put their trust in me I'd ensure the voice of Bridgend is heard in Westminster!

Madeleine Moon
(Labour)

I HAVE represented the Bridgend Constituency in Westminster for almost 15 years.

My Parliamentary record shows that I have an above average record of speaking in debates and asking Parliamentary questions.

I have dealt with a wide range of issues from constituents ranging from benefits to visa access.

I have chaired All Party Groups dealing with Suicide and Self Harm Prevention, tackling kidney, MND and Parkinson's disease as well as Reserve and Veterans and our armed forces.

I am the longest serving member of the Defence Select Committee and was elected President of the NATO Parliament by its 29 member states in 2018.

I live in Porthcawl which I represented as a councillor on both Ogwr and Bridgend CB Councils and was twice Mayor of Porthcawl.

I have a proud record of representing this local area where I have lived with my family for over 40 years.

Robert Morgan
(Brexit Party)

BRIDGEND born and bred, I'm Robert Morgan and lived for most of my life in the same street in Bridgend, which gives me a wonderful insight into what makes the Bridgend constituency tick, and what the people of Bridgend really think.

I currently run a financial brokerage in Bridgend.

I was a Bridgend Town Councillor 2013 – 2017, becoming Mayor in 2016.

What I hope you are seeing is a person who has local interests at heart, and who has the experience to appreciate things from all angles.

54% of people voted leave in the referendum, those people have been ignored and voted against time and time again by your Labour MP, Madeleine Moon. You deserve an MP that will be your voice, not ignore it.

Vote for me on 12 December and I will hear your voice, Westminster will hear your voice and your vote will count again.

Jamie Wallis
(Conservative)

I CARE passionately about Bridgend and Porthcawl, and I'm standing because I want to deliver a brighter future for our area.

Based on conversations I've had with local people across our community, I launched 'My Plan' for Bridgend and Porthcawl, which delivers on six key themes that I know will help deliver a brighter future for our area.

These are bold, but deliverable policies such as investing in our NHS and schools, protecting our area from overdevelopment and making sure there are more police on our streets to tackle crime.

But we can't deliver on the issues that matter until we get Brexit done, and as someone who voted to Leave in the EU referendum three years ago, I'll make sure it gets done if I'm elected as the MP for Bridgend on December 12.

Jonathan Pratt
(Lib Dem)

NO information or photo supplied

Visit our website for all the latest news and sport

Meet Ogmore's Parliamentary hopefuls

VOTERS across the country will be heading to polling stations in just one week's time to decide who they want to see representing them in Westminster.

Candidates have spent the last few weeks on the campaign trail trying hard to convince residents to get behind them.

Labour's Chris Elmore will be fighting to keep his Ogmore seat, which he has held since 2016.

Jo Swinson's Lib Dems are fielding Anita Davies, Plaid Cymru's Luke Fletcher will be trying to take the seat and so will Tom Muller from the Green Party.

Christine Roach will be trying to claim the seat for Nigel Farage's Brexit Party and Conservative Sadie Vidal has thrown her hat into the ring in an attempt to secure a place in Parliament.

On this page, readers will be able to find out a little bit more about Ogmore's Parliamentary hopefuls.

Chris Elmore (Labour)

I'M extremely proud to have represented Ogmore in Parliament since 2016.

I was born and bred in south Wales, and I live in Brynmenyn with my partner.

Growing up in south Wales, I saw the very real damage done by the Tories in power.

Places like Ogmore were almost destroyed by successive Tory Governments that just didn't care about Wales.

I got into politics because I wanted to stand up for the communities that the Tories left behind, and to fight against Tory austerity so that places like Ogmore can really fulfill the promise of the people who live there.

Boris Johnson's Brexit deal would threaten jobs in Ogmore and hit local families – and I will not let that happen.

If re-elected, I will continue to fight for more jobs and local investment, oppose a damaging Tory No Deal Brexit, and always stand up for local people.

Luke Fletcher (Plaid Cymru)

I GREW up and live in Pencoed and went to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr.

For secondary school I went to Ysgol Llanhari and then on to Cardiff University to study.

My father was an upholsterer and my mother was a factory worker.

I myself worked as a bartender for 4-5 years during my studies at university.

We all have a choice to make in this election.

We can stick with the status quo by voting for the two main London-based parties, or we can choose a different path for Wales.

There is nothing inevitable about the poverty we see in Wales.

Only we can unlock our potential.

We need a party that has Wales' best interests at its core, and has real ambition for Wales and its future.

Christine Roach (Brexit Party)

MY name is Christine and I am your Brexit Party Candidate for the forthcoming General Election.

I was born, lived and worked in the Ogmore Constituency and now live in the bordering Constituency.

I have served as a Community Councillor and I am currently in the NHS where I have worked for the past 15 years.

I am standing to protect democracy and the sovereignty of our nation.

Over the last three years there has been a rising tide of realisation by the people of the betrayal by all the mainstream parties in failing to implement, then trying to reverse the result of the 2016 EU referendum and ignore the will of 17.4 million people – nearly 60% voted Leave in Ogmore.

I believe we should use the billions of pounds we send to the EU, here in the UK and Wales, to the benefit of our people.

Lib Dem candidate Anita Davies, the Green Party's Tom Muller and Conservative Sadie Vidal did not supply any information or photographs

'Strictly Cymru' will bring a little sparkle and glamour to Bridgend

DO you have what it takes to become the next Anton du Beke? If so, it's time to shake and shimmy your way into 'Strictly Cymru' – Wales' first inclusive dance competition - coming to Bridgend County Borough in January 2020!

'Strictly Cymru' is organised by UK charity Leonard Cheshire Wales, that works to support disabled people and individuals to live, learn and work as independently as they choose, whatever their ability.

The competition, supported by Bridgend County Borough Council and in partnership with Paradance UK aims to improve health, wellbeing and access to active lifestyles for disabled people across Wales.

There will be six heats across Wales, and the fourth heat will be hosted at the Bethlehem Life Centre in Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend. Over two days, January 23 and 24, participants will be invited to compete in either the wheelchair category or the inclusive category. Day one competitors will complete a workshop and learn a routine and day two competitors will attend a refresher workshop to rehearse, and finally perform their routine in front of the judges.

Bridgend's very own dance champions, Simon Green and Diane Carter from the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People and Welsh Para Dance Club UK 2019 bronze champions will also be providing a demonstration at this heat. The lucky winners will then be offered lessons with professional dance instructors to help them rock and roll all the way to the grand final on May 2, where they will perform their routine under the glitter ball!

If you are interested in taking part, book your place today at: leonardcheshire.org/strictlycymru. For more information contact Sophie Dimmery on 01656 643640. Email: sophie.dimmery@bridgend.gov.uk.Sophie Dimmery. We welcome correspondence in Welsh.

Scouts launch 'A Million Hands' project

SCOUTS Cymru launched their 'A Million Hands' social project at the Senedd recently along with charity partners Crisis, WWF, Mind Cymru, National Autistic Society Cymru, British Red Cross and Save the Children.

The project aims to get Scouts from across Wales to take part in community action activities.

Young people will address and tackle six issues of national importance that are representative of young people's concerns.

These include ending homelessness, promoting better mental health, disability, refugees and displaced children kindness and the environment.

Ogmore AM Huw Irranca-Davies was one of the many AMs who attended the launch.

Mr Irranca-Davies said: "As a former Scout myself (2nd Lliw Valley Gowerton), I was delighted to meet Scouts Cymru and partners to hear all about their wonderful new project.

"Chosen by the young people themselves, the six national themes will also provide an opportunity for the Scouts to achieve a 'Community Impact Staged Activity Badge' – a bonus for any enthusiastic Scout.."

To find out more about the 'A Million Hands' project see: www.scouts.org.uk/what-scouts-do/help-others/community/.

THE TIME HAS COME TO CHANGE POLITICS FOR GOOD IN WALES

INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

The Brexit Party will invest £200 billion outside of London. We will spread growth equally around the whole UK. **That means at least £12 billion more for Wales.** We will build the roads, railways and broadband links that Wales deserves.

BUILDING THE M4 RELIEF ROAD

Labour broke their promise. They failed to build the M4 relief road. **With extra funding for Wales, The Brexit Party will ensure that the M4 relief road is built.** This will help boost jobs, infrastructure and local services for the whole of Wales.

THE WELSH NHS WORKING FOR YOU

The Brexit party will ensure that the NHS in Wales and England works together so you get the care you deserve. **With that extra £12 billion we will also build more GP surgeries in Wales.** That means better care and shorter journeys for you.

LOWER COUNCIL TAX

Council tax has risen faster in Wales than elsewhere in the UK. Under Labour, Plaid and the Conservatives, over 115 council officials in Wales now earn more than £100,000 per year. The Brexit Party will stop the council gravy train by cutting councillor numbers, freezing bosses' salaries and ending wasteful expenditure. **You deserve better local services for less.**

DEAL WITH CRIME

Knife crime in Wales is now at the highest levels since records began. The other parties in Wales have failed you. Enough is enough. The Brexit Party will recruit more police officers and make sure that violent repeat offenders stay in prison. **We will keep you safe.**

LEAVING THE EUROPEAN UNION

Cardiff Bay is stuffed full of politicians who are doing everything they can to ignore and block your vote to leave the European Union. We promise to not only respect your vote to leave, but to make Brexit a success for everybody living in Wales.

CHRISTINE ROACH

OGMORE

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VOTE FOR THE BREXIT PARTY

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER

BREXIT PARTY

VOTE
THE BREXIT PARTY
THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER

ROBERT MORGAN

BRIDGEND

"GIVING BRIDGEND A VOICE AGAIN"

Bridgend born and bred, I'm Robert Morgan and lived for most of my life in the same street in Bridgend, which gives me a wonderful insight into what makes the Bridgend constituency tick, and into what the people of Bridgend really think. After many years as an employee, I now run a financial brokerage in Bridgend.

I was in local politics as a Bridgend Town Councillor 2013–2017, becoming Mayor in 2016. What I hope you are seeing is a person who has local interests at heart, and who has the experience to appreciate things from all angles. And this is why I am now asking you to vote for me.

Since 54% of people voted Leave in the referendum, those people have been ignored and voted against time and time again by your Labour MP, Madeleine Moon. You deserve better! You deserve an MP that will BE your voice, not ignore it.

Vote for me on the 12th December 2019 and I will hear your voice, Westminster will hear your voice and your vote WILL count again.

ROBERT MORGAN, BRIDGEND

IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!

robert.morgan@thebrexitparty.org @BridgendRob

OUR NHS

The Princess of Wales hospital needs doctors, nurses and paramedics, more funding must come this way. We want to increase funding to the NHS not take it away.

FUNDING FOR PARKS AND PITCHES

All funding has been pulled for the upkeep and maintenance of our parks and sports pitches in the constituency. Let's get it back!

LOWER COUNCIL TAX

Our council tax goes up, but our public services are reduced year on year, bus routes are disappearing. We pay for services like police, their numbers keep reducing.

WALES VOTED TO LEAVE

We are the ONLY political party in Wales committed to respecting the result of the 2016 EU referendum. Your vote should NOT be ignored or betrayed. Let's make a success out of Brexit!

LABOUR HAS LET YOU DOWN

If you vote for Labour, absolutely nothing changes.

Your community has been forgotten and your voice has been ignored.

Our hospitals don't have enough doctors and nurses.

Council tax bills keep going up, but public services keep going down.

If you want more of the same that we've had for the last 20 years, then vote Labour.

Now, if you want change, if you want good jobs, great schools, a working NHS and politicians that put you first, vote for The Brexit Party.

Together we can change politics for good.

BREXIT PARTY

Boy wins gong for campaign to stop pavement parking

A YOUNG partially sighted boy from Bridgend has received a Bridge FM Young Achiever Award.

Harley Morris, aged seven, is a pupil at Litchard Primary School and has been registered as partially sighted since birth.

He was given the Young Contribution to Community or Environment prize at the Bridge FM awards ceremony at the Heronstone Hotel recently.

Harley received the award because of his work on a national campaign to make Welsh streets safer and more accessible for blind and partially sighted people, led by his mum Rhian Morris.

Rhian, 33, is also partially sighted and is calling on the Welsh Government to ban pavement parking across the country. She has been working with RNIB Cymru to collect over 1,000 signatures on two petitions and will be presenting evidence to the Welsh Government Petitions Committee in January.

Harley has helped his mum every step of the way by handing out flyers and appearing on local TV and radio to promote the campaign.

Clear pavements are essential for blind and partially sighted people, and parking on pavements can cause serious problems. Vehicles obstruct walkways and often can't be detected by people with sight loss until it is too late. Many blind and partially sighted people collide with the parked vehicles, at best losing confidence of independence and at worst resulting in injury.

Pavement parking is currently only illegal in central London, but many MPs and campaigners are calling for a nationwide ban.

ABOVE: Harley Morris with his award.

ABOVE: Harley Morris with his mum Rhian.

Rhian Morris said: "Harley was overjoyed to win the award, when he found out he couldn't sit still. He has been working so hard to help me with the campaign. Even though he is still so young he understands how important it is for his safety and for the lives of other blind and partially sighted people across Wales.

"The campaign is going really well. We have picked up a lot of support from people all over Wales and made lots of wonderful new friends. So many people have contacted us to help. It shows the scale of the problem and proves that change needs to happen.

"Harley knows that this is a chance to build a future where he can be independent. He tries so hard and puts his all into everything he does: but he gets very anxious about roads, which limits his confidence and ability to get out and about.

"So many people don't realise how pavement parking impacts blind and partially sighted people on a daily and long-term basis. I want him to grow up thinking that he can do anything, regardless of his eye condition."

RNIB Cymru campaigns officer Kirsty James said: "Harley and Rhian work tirelessly to raise awareness of the problems blind and partially sighted people face when getting out and about, and the impact this has on quality of life.

"Making sure walkways are safe and accessible is everyone's responsibility. We are excited to continue working with Rhian and Harley on their campaign and hope to see real change happening across Wales in 2020."

To find out more about Rhian's pavement parking campaign visit: www.assembly.wales/en/gethome/e-petitions/Pages/petitiondetail.aspx?PetitionID=1658

Mayor's Citizenship Awards – reward our local heroes!

DO you know someone who regularly goes the extra mile for others, raised an outstanding amount of money for a charitable cause, or who has put the area on the map by achieving something special?

As 2019 draws to a close, local residents are being urged to nominate individuals, groups or businesses they think are deserving of a Mayor's Citizenship Award. Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Cllr Stuart Baldwin, said: "Every year, the residents of Bridgend County Borough are asked to nominate those unsung heroes who deserve a special 'thank you' or 'well done' from the local community.

"I'm very much looking forward to meeting these people and giving them the appreciation they deserve, so please get your nominations in as soon as possible."

The awards are organised by BCBC and are open to those who live in the area, as well as local groups and businesses who have shown the kind of values that make the county borough great.

Last year's winners included the youngest recipient of the award so far – Hollie Evans, an 11-year-old Litchard Primary School pupil recognised for raising positive awareness of Down's Syndrome as well as her charitable exploits in aid of children with cancer.

Several volunteers also won awards, including those who run the Techtivity Club in Porthcawl where children with various needs meet and play with specialist technology and software in a safe, welcoming environment.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 24, and the award winners will be honoured at an event hosted by the Mayor at the civic offices in Bridgend in March.

Please visit the Mayor's pages at www.bridgend.gov.uk to complete a nomination form online.

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A new start in Aberkenfig for Carers' Trust

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies paid a visit to the new offices set up in Aberkenfig as a base for the Carers Trust of South East Wales, which has been awarded the contract to supply support services to carers throughout Bridgend.

Bridgend Carers Centre lost a significant element of its income when Bridgend County Borough Council decided to fund different services offered by CTSEW. Staff and regular users have been very worried about the centre's future.

Welsh Conservative Mrs Davies met chief executive Gareth Howells and his team of workers who will be delivering the service in the borough, and was told that there had been a delay at the start of the new contract in April while staff were recruited and premises found, as fewer staff than expected had transferred over from the previous contract holder Bridgend Carers Centre.

Staff are now in place and the trust has offices in Aberkenfig. They have also exceeded the target of new carers, despite the initial delay. Mrs Davies also received assurances from Mr Howells that they would work alongside the Bridgend Carers Centre (in Park Street, Bridgend) and would not want to replicate any of the services already provide.

They are looking at ways to make joint bids for project funding wherever possible.

Mrs Davies said: "There have been genuine concerns about the decision of the council to take away the contract from Bridgend Carers Centre after 20 years and give it to another organisation. It is certainly too valuable an asset to lose.

"But it seems to me that with goodwill on both sides, the new set-up can be made to work and both organisations can continue to work for carers without overlapping or duplicating services, and also do some work together.

"The BCC centre in Park Street provides a valuable refuge for carers seeking some respite from their daily round of caring; and staff there have many years of experience in providing the support they need. Also, CTSEW have already identified communities in the borough where residents would like some support provided more locally. Perhaps a combination of the tried and tested with a healthy infusion of new blood and new thinking may yet be the best way to help those in Bridgend who carry out such vital work in caring for family members."

Christmas comes early for KPC

KPC held their annual Christmas evening/fair at their centre in Pyle on November 27 – with a great turnout and some wonderful gift and craft stalls.

Thanks go to the fantastic choir from Cynffig Comprehensive School, Phil Jones & Co, for their musical contribution and the Three Harlequins Marching Band performing on their kazoos and drums.

Thanks to Clarity Copiers for donating the first prize in our raffle – a TV – won by Maggie Roberts, presented by Madeleine Moon MP.

Thanks to everyone who donated prizes, and in particular the Towers Hotel for their show and meal prize; and of course to Santa for making an early appearance in his busy schedule to come and meet the young ones.

During the very well attended evening, members were presented with End of Year Achievement Awards for improved behaviour, good attitude, their participation, helpfulness and volunteering. KPC were also presented with a cheque by Youth Cymru for £614 raised from their recent Through the Ages project held recently at Porthcawl Pavilion, which will be donated for the up-coming Big Give Challenge starting December 3, where any donations to the charity will be doubled!

If anyone would like to get involved donations can be made via the link from this date for one week only: donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a051r00001NbdPMAAZ. KPC would like to thank all who attended for making this a special night, and now marking our 21st birthday.

KPC would like to thank everyone who has supported us in 2019 – staff, volunteers, our Board of Directors, donors, contributors to our collection boxes, raffles, book stall at the Co-operative Porthcawl, EBay donations, fundraising through a range of ways including the Porthcawl 10K, Charity Golf Day and more – your support is really appreciated and we couldn't do it without you all!

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13231_19 C Promoted by Louise Magee, General Secretary, Welsh Labour on behalf of Welsh Labour, both at 1 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9HA.

Pupils head to festive market for a bit of research

ABOVE: Youngsters enjoying a day trip to Cardiff's Christmas market ahead of their own festive market

IN preparation for Oak Field Primary School's Christmas Market on December 17, the children, staff – and the occasional elf – have been busy creating fantastic produce and crafts to sell.

The whole school has visited the market in Cardiff to do some much needed research to see the yummy treats and sparkling crafts that have been proving most popular for customers to buy.

A spokesman for the Barry-based school said: "The children (and their grown up helpers), have helped to make some Christmas tree decorations and Christmas wreaths at our Parent Engagement Afternoons and I've heard on the Santa grapevine that there will be cookies, Welsh cakes and other fantastic produce to buy on the day. So hurry down to Gibbonsdown on Tuesday, December 17 at 3.20pm and join the festive fun.

Lovelight in Llantwit

THE Llantwit Major Friends of Tenovus will be holding their annual Lovelight Service on Tuesday, December 10, at 7.30pm at St Illtud's Church.

A spokeswoman said: "This beautiful service presents an opportunity to give thanks for our loved ones.

"We each light a candle in love, honour or in memory of someone we love, celebrate a new life, ask for a blessing for someone, give thanks for a healing.

"We have been holding this service for over 25 years with tremendous support from the community and we look forward to seeing you all again.

"Please join us for Christmas carols with the children from St Illtyd's Primary School Choir, and afterwards join us for a mince pie and mulled wine!

Community news from Llangan and Treoes with Nancy Davidge

News from Llangan Primary School

THE teachers and staff were delighted with the wonderful response they had on their Bobath day, November 22.

Parents and pupils donated cakes and toys for the bring and buy sale, and all the children wore blue on the day. The school council are hopeful a member of Bobath will be able to attend the school to receive the donation.

Forthcoming events

ON Sunday, December 8 a Christmas carol service will take place at Saron Chapel, Treoes at 3pm.

Everyone is assured of a warm Christmas welcome. I understand Saron will benefit from the table top sale which took place in the Treoes village hall on December 1. A carol service will take place at St Mary Hill Church on Sunday, December 15 at 11.15am. Everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

Support for vulnerable teens

ABOVE: Stephanie Jenkins, Eve Piffaretti, Liz Singer and Stacey Richards.

PORTHCAWL Barnardo's held an event at Liz Singer's house to raise money and to receive supplies of food and toiletries for a Barnardo's-run project which helps vulnerable young people.

Those attending brought tinned or dried food and toiletries for the BAYS 16+ project in Swansea, supporting homeless teenagers and those leaving care.

The committee and friends worked for weeks making cakes, chutneys, pickles and other goodies for sale.

Mulled wine and homemade mince pies were provided and a tombola stall was held, Christmas cards were sold and a raffle took place.

An event spokesman said: "We were overwhelmed with donations for the project.

"Two of the project workers, Stacey Richards and Stephanie Jenkins, attended to transport the tins, packets and jars to Swansea. "They were amazed at the generosity of people and very grateful.

"Many of those attending supported us when we last held the Open House and their enthusiasm helped create a lovely warm atmosphere.

"This was confirmed by Eve Piffaretti, who came to see what went on.

"Eve is a Cardiff solicitor who supports Barnardo's as a voluntary member of their National Advisory Board.

"She was able to report that we raised over £700 for Barnardo's Cymru."

Choir's concert raises £270 for cancer charity

HEATHER and Clive Edwards of Ty Maen Farm, Colwinston, recently attended a rehearsal to receive a cheque for £270 from members of Cowbridge Choral Society.

The funds were raised in a concert in aid of Bowel Cancer Wales in memory of Clive and Heather's daughter, Lizzie who died last year at the age of 39. Lizzie was a chiropractor, an excellent rider who loved horses and was much loved and respected in her home village of Colwinston and further afield.

The Choral Society will perform at their annual Christmas concert on Saturday, December 7 at 7.30pm in The United Free Church, Cowbridge.

They will be joined by Cor Meibion y Machlud and the Barber Shop Quartet of Old Spice. Tickets available from WG Davies Newsagent, Cowbridge; Nickleby's Bookstore, Llantwit Major; Anne Williams Pharmacy, Pontyclun or through the box office on 01446 792175.

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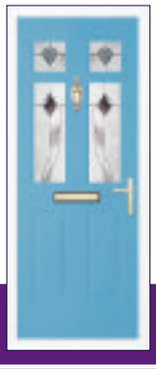

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Airport announces charity of the year

CARDIFF Airport has chosen Velindre Cancer Centre as its charity of the year for 2020/21 after an airport-wide vote, where each team member chose their favourite from five shortlisted charities.

Velindre Cancer Centre provides specialist cancer services to over 1.5 million people in south east Wales, and strives to provide the best possible care and treatment to patients and families affected by cancer, as well as providing specialist training to healthcare professionals in the region.

The partnership will see the Cardiff Airport team working with Velindre Cancer Centre to arrange events and activities to raise vital funds and will run from January 2020 until March 2021.

Cardiff Airport has already raised over £500 for the charity after arranging a coastal walk in September, where the team and their friends and family walked challenging stretches along the Wales Coast Path.

Deb Bowen Rees, CEO of Cardiff Airport, said: "The charity does such important work and is close to the hearts of everyone at Cardiff Airport. Sadly, there are very few of us that have not been affected by cancer at some point in our lives. This is an opportunity for people across all departments to work together and develop innovative ways to raise money for an organisation that does so much to support the local community.

Andrew Morris, Head of Fundraising at Velindre Cancer Centre, added: "We are absolutely delighted to have been chosen as Cardiff Airport's charity of the year and cannot thank the team enough for their support. The year 2020 is particularly relevant as by next year, one in two of us will be affected by cancer. However, through better treatments and early detection, more people than ever are living with cancer and survival rates have doubled in the last 40 years. The money raised through our partnership with Cardiff Airport will be used to fund things over and above those provided by the NHS, so fundraising really does make a huge difference."

Charity support forms part of Cardiff Airport's Touchdown Programme, which launched earlier this year. For more information, visit https://www.cardiff-airport.com/touchdown-programme/

Good causes benefit from community fund

LEFT: Barry-based Motion Control Dance.

LOCAL causes across Glamorgan received an early Christmas present this week, when the Co-op was able to distribute £29,000.

The money will be shared by nine organisations, all of whom are making a real difference to communities throughout the region. These include Motion Control Dance of Barry, Cowbridge History Society, and Young at Heart.

This is the latest round of pay outs from the local community fund, and brings the amount the Co-op members have invested in causes in Glamorgan since the scheme launched in September 2016 to £95,500.

Rebecca Birkbeck, director of community and shared value at the Co-op, said: "The local community fund is now a well-established way of supporting local causes who help to make communities safer, happier, and healthier places to live, and we're delighted to be able to support such a wide range of local groups as they help to improve wellbeing in Glamorgan.

"By choosing their local cause online, our members are telling us what really matters in their communities, and we have used this information to help us identify new groups to support throughout next year."

When members shop with the Co-op, one per cent of what they spend on selected Co-op branded products and services goes to support local causes through the Local Community Fund.

By joining the Co-op's membership scheme shoppers can contribute to the money raised for the causes, and they can choose which of these causes they wish to support by logging on to the Co-op's membership website at www.coop.co.uk/membership.

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Lend an 'elfing' hand this Christmas

British Heart Foundation is appealing for volunteers to help deal with the busy festive period.

BRITISH Heart Foundation is in desperate need of volunteers this Christmas to help raise funds for life saving research.

The charity hopes people in Wales can lend an 'elfing' hand by volunteering in their local shop. With Christmas being one of the busiest times of the year, the charity is calling on locals to donate the gift of time – even just for an afternoon.

Doing so will help the BHF spread festive cheer and raise funds to transform the lives of those in Wales living with heart and circulatory diseases.

Linda Fenn, Head of Volunteering at the BHF, said: "Volunteering over the Christmas period is a great way to give back to your local community and be part of a fantastic team. You'll also be helping us to raise vital funds for research into beating heart and circulatory diseases, including heart attack, stroke and vascular dementia.

"Each year, heart and circulatory diseases kill around 9,000 people in Wales and currently 370,000 people in the country are living with these conditions. It's essential that we continue to accelerate research into new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat them. Without the generosity of our shop volunteers we wouldn't be able to fund much of this life saving work."

It couldn't be easier – just choose a date that works for you, call into your local branch and arrange the day, sign up and start spreading the festive joy as a BHF elf. What better way could there be to get into the Christmas spirit than supporting a charity while sporting a Santa hat and tinsel?

Whether you want to volunteer as a one off, pick up a few festive shifts or explore volunteering longer term, the BHF can help discuss all the available options. Volunteers will be able to help with a wide range of tasks such as sorting donations, speaking to customers and creating festive window displays.

Recent research commissioned by the BHF showed volunteering can improve your mental health and help you overcome loneliness. It can also make a real difference to your CV, help you meet people from all walks of life and most importantly you will be helping the BHF to beat the heartbreak caused by heart and circulatory diseases.

For more information visit the charity's website.

Outraged farmers lodge complaint with BBC boss

FARMERS in Wales have been outraged by the misrepresentation of the industry in a recent BBC programme, and have contacted the Farmers' Union of Wales in unprecedented numbers to voice their anger.

FUW president Glyn Roberts said: "Just like our members, I was appalled at the failure to differentiate between different meat production systems around the world, and therefore the misrepresentation in and lack of balance in the BBC's 'Meat: A threat to our planet?' programme broadcast on November 25.

"I have therefore written to BBC director general Anthony William Hall to formally complain about the programme, which marks just the latest of many reports broadcast by the BBC over the past 18 months or so which has focused on, or relied on global figures which are not representative of Welsh and UK production systems and would generally be illegal in Wales and the UK."

In his letter, the union president further highlights that such foreign production systems, as reported by the BBC, have ecological footprints which are simply not comparable to those in countries such as Wales, where carbon footprints are extremely low compared with other industries and grazing animals are essential in terms of maintaining habitat and biodiversity – as highlighted in numerous scientific studies.

Mr Roberts added that such broadcasts have continued despite large numbers of complaints having been submitted by individuals and organisations over the past year.

"The fact that our farming and rural communities believe overwhelmingly that the BBC is inherently biased against Welsh farmers and meat production, and the widespread perception that the BBC is deliberately allowing itself to be used as a vehicle for anti-meat campaigners, demonstrates that there is a very real problem that has not been recognised by the BBC," he wrote.

The letter further outlines the FUW's belief that such partiality and imbalance means that the BBC is failing in its duty to comply with its Charter in relation to:

1. The independence of the BBC, in terms of '…independent in all matters concerning the fulfilment of its mission and the promotion of the public purpose'.

2. The public purposes of the BBC, in terms of providing '…impartial news and information to help people understand and engage with the world around them'.

3. Acting in the public interest, in terms of ensuring '…that the benefits (whether direct or indirect) of decisions relating to the fulfilment of its mission and the promotion of the public purposes outweigh the costs (whether direct or indirect); ...and in doing so, have regard to economic, social and cultural benefits and costs.'

"I would encourage anyone who has been equally outraged by this programme to write to BBC director general Anthony William Hall to directly voice their concerns," said Mr Roberts.

Christmas parade and lights switch-on in Maesteg

A DRY, sunny but cold Saturday brought Maesteg people out in their thousands to take part and watch the annual Christmas Parade and lighting up event in Maesteg.

A convoy of floats left the former Revlon site carrying many local groups and organisations who were certainly dressed for the part despite the cold weather.

The Police closed the town to traffic while the procession wove its way down Commercial Street into Talbot Street, and stopped by the 40ft Christmas tree outside Maesteg Town Hall.

Many councillors erected barriers that were used to hold crowds back for Santa and the floats to travel through the town

Funk Force, the local award-winning dance group, danced their way through the town while groups like Slimming World, football teams, local pubs and many others waved, played music and had their own snowman and fancy dress on their floats.

The entertainment was provided by Bridge FM presenter Lee Jukes with live music by Alex John and Nikky Casey.

Following the lighting up of the tree and the town lights, the spectators were treated to a brilliant fireworks display that was the final spectacular event of the day.

Photographs by Phil Davies.

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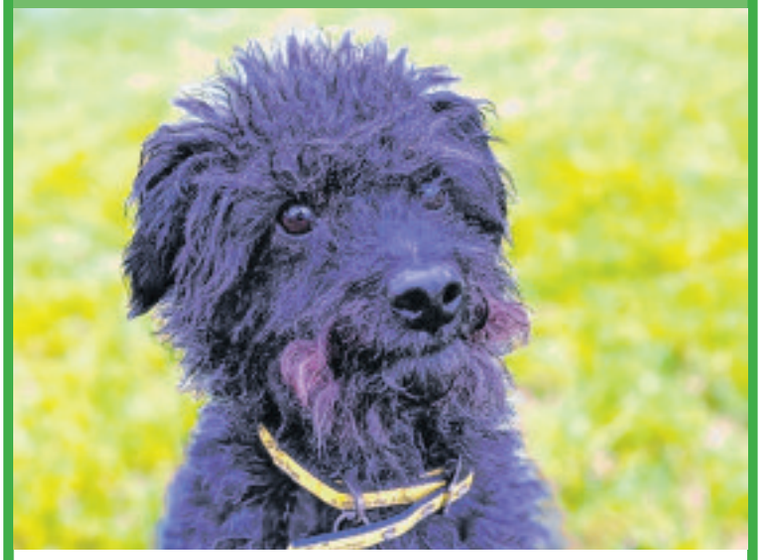

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Poodle cross, Angus, is as bright as a button!

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He might be small, but he certainly isn't a lap dog!

He can be shy when meeting new people, so new owners will need to come along and meet him several times to build a bond and take a hands-off approach until he gets to know you.

He needs a quiet home with understanding owners who can help him when he feels insecure.

He is housetrained and happy to be left for a few hours as long as he has something to keep him occupied.

He likes all the attention to be on himself, so is looking for an adult-only home with preferably one owner.

He does take time to come around, but with committed and experienced owners, he'll be a great companion.

For more information on Angus, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG; call 01656 725219 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

£1.7m spent clearing up 35,000 fly-tipping incidents

MORE than 35,000 fly-tipping incidents were reported across Wales in 2018/19, according to Welsh Government figures.

The Government says the estimated clearance cost of fly-tipped waste is around £1.7 million.

More than 27,000 enforcement actions were taken with 89% of prosecution outcomes resulting in a fine.

However, the prosecutions only refer to formally-reported cases.

Incidents on private land are always under-reported as farmers and land managers focus on clear-up to ensure their normal business activities can go ahead unimpeded.

Figures also exclude 'side-waste' – defined as overspill or waste deposited near waste-bins.

CLA director Rebecca Williams said: "Fly tipping is the scourge of the Welsh countryside.

"Many incidents go unreported as the rural community is apparently conditioned to accept fly-tipped mess as an occupational hazard.

"The inaccessibility of local authority waste transfer stations and the cost of waste disposal may both have contributed to the problem.

"This is a crime in which innocent victims pay penalties while perpetrators fail to carry out their own responsibilities, often pocket some cash and go unpunished – encouraging them to commit the offence again."

Fly-tipped waste contaminates land and water-courses, creates health and safety-threats to humans, livestock and wild animals, blights the countryside and leads to heavy clear-up costs by farmers, landowners and rural businesses.

Land managers who fail to clear-up waste deposited on their land face the prospect of prosecution whatever the source of the waste – apart from the cost of removal and repair of damage.

Some waste may require specially-qualified operators and costly plant and equipment to remove.

Rebecca Williams said: "Year by year, we see these depressing statistics. I'm calling on society to stop turning a blind-eye – and do everything possible to eradicate this irresponsible, unhealthy and unsociable crime.

"We welcome the role Government is playing at national and local level in dealing with the scourge, but the incidence of fly-tipping remains a national disgrace and it may take more action – and wider pressure in society – to tackle the problem."

A Valeways walk through the countryside

SEVEN Valeways walkers joined John at the Red Fox in Penllyn for the latest Valeways walk.

They set off from the pub following the road passing the 13th century wells, the main source of water for Penllyn until 1937, to reach a bridleway leading through woods to Vistla Farm.

They walked down to reach the Valeways Millennium trail and followed it through Coed y Stanby until they reached a road.

They made sure that they complied with the notice on a gate 'any person failing to close and latch this gate is liable to a fine of not exceeding 40 shillings'.

Crossing the road, they walked uphill with views of City on the left and through woods to come out into open fields. They headed to Halifax, where they stopped for a short coffee stop.

Refreshed, they followed a pretty green lane downhill until they reached a road, pausing to allow postman Pat to pass, and continued for a short time on the road before reaching another bridleway towards Pen-y-Lan.

The group arrived at Llansannor and passed by Llansannor Court dating from about 1500 and which has featured several times in Dr Who. Crossing parkland, the group arrived back at the Millennium Trail and retraced their steps to return to the Red Fox.

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Charity calls on generous people to help its Jungle tribe

ABOVE: Jungle Ward patient Milo aged one, with his Mum and Noah's Ark tiger.

Jungle Ward patient Rhiannon aged 11. Photos taken by Paul Fears.

CHILDREN'S charity Noah's Ark has launched a £1 million appeal to transform one of the medical wards at Wales' only children's hospital.

Jungle Ward received 44 admissions from the area covered by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board last year, caring for children and young people with a broad range of medical conditions including special and complex needs, chronic long term diseases like cystic fibrosis and acute conditions like diabetes, asthma and Crohn's disease.

It also provides specialist care for patients recovering from brain injuries and young people in mental health crisis. The new appeal will fund facilities and equipment for these children, creating an environment that provides the best possible chance of recovery.

A spokesperson for the charity said: "The needs of the children of Jungle Ward here at the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales have changed quite a lot in recent years.

"The ward cares for more children than ever before. It also now provides rehabilitation for children with brain injuries, who previously travelled elsewhere for specialist treatment.

"Due to the nature of the conditions being treated, hospital stays for young patients on Jungle Ward can be a lot longer or more frequent than average, while for others they are shorter but often traumatic. We need to raise £1 million to transform it into a bright, stimulating environment. A space where families can still be families during their hospital stays."

The Jungle Ward Appeal will fund the design and creation of a new 'high care' area for children who are acutely unwell, a therapy room for rehabilitation and a safe space for young people in mental health crisis.

It will create fully accessible bathroom facilities, providing privacy and dignity for children with continence or gastro-intestinal issues and independence for children regaining skills after brain injury.

The re-development will also help make life easier for families by creating brighter rooms with more space for parents to sleep comfortably alongside their children as well as a parent room and enhanced play areas for children and young people.

For more information about the Jungle Ward Appeal or to donate, visit: www.noahsarkcharity.org.

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Cowbridge restaurant is the tops at curry awards

LEFT: Chef Ashi Aravind (second right) receives the award at the Grosvenor House in Mayfair on behalf of the team at the Shampan.

A COWBRIDGE restaurant has been named 'Asian Restaurant of the Year for South Wales' in the Asian Curry Awards for 2019.

Staff at the Shampan, Eastgate, are thrilled because last year they had a double success when chef Ashi Aravind was named as 'Asian Chef of the Year 2018 Wales', while the Shampan was highly commended in the 'Best Indian Restaurant Wales' category.

This year, they have shot up from highly commended to take the top prize for south Wales.

Over 700 VIP guests attended the Asian hospitality sector's most prestigious event, the Asian Curry Awards in Association with Just Eat, at the Grosvenor House in London's Mayfair recently.

Guest of honour, Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, praised the contribution of the British Asians, saying: "By bringing the best of Asian culinary traditions to these shores, these restaurant owners have expanded not only the choice of food available to the British public, but our very identity as an open, inclusive and multicultural nation."

The team at the Shampan have had an exciting time since they took over the business in March of 2018. Last year's awards gave them a great opportunity to showcase their food, and they have continued developing the menu ever since.

Chef Ashi (nicknamed 'Ash') has been cooking professionally for 18 years and his journey began in a naval base restaurant in Kochi, Kerala, India as a chef. Here he learned about the art of discipline in life and in the profession.

He told The GEM that there had been a great reception for the food, with many customers responding to the style of cooking, where dishes are prepared to reflect the regional cuisine of a number of areas in India.

In fact, winning the award has come at a good time for the Shampan, as they are launching a new menu this month.

Ash's favourite dishes will all be there, and he has continued to add to the menu, bringing new specialities for customers to try.

He has extended the vegetarian and vegan range, and the new menu is going to highlight a number of traditional curry dishes that have always been popular with local customers.

The Shampan has quickly become part of the community, hosting evening functions for charities such a Friends of Tenovus, and for local clubs too.

Staff have been taking the message about their food out and about too, with the 'Curry Y Van' which goes out to local events and offers delicious street food.

With Christmas festivities in mind, the Shampan is offering a seven-course feast for £29.99 per person, which is a great way to sample the variety of styles that chef Ash is offering.

Yule not go lonely this Christmas with Samaritans

AS tinsel and fairy lights adorn the streets up and down the country, it can be easy to overlook how the festive season can be the hardest time of the year for some.

Last Christmas Samaritans, the only charity that is there for anyone struggling to cope 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, responded to over 9000 calls in Wales alone.

On Christmas Eve 2018, while many were hanging up their stockings and getting ready for Santa's arrival, almost 1,650 dedicated Samaritans volunteers were reporting for duty at Samaritans branches across the UK and Republic of Ireland.

The very next day, over 1,475 Samaritans volunteers headed to branches and responded to thousands of calls for help from people feeling overwhelmed on December 25.

Each volunteer answered an average of 12 calls per Christmas shift, with callers sharing a wide range of personal challenges from mental and physical health struggles to family issues, relationship problems and isolation and loneliness.

The charity is asking people across Wales and the UK to send a Christmas gift, to help Samaritans continue to be there for those who need emotional support.

Making a donation for as little as £4.99 will help Samaritans answer a call for help from somebody struggling this Christmas - and change someone's story for the better.

Newly trained Samaritans volunteer Sue Peart, 62, will be volunteering for the first time this Christmas.

Sue said: "I was struggling with the fact my career had come to an end and then I faced the grief of losing my mum. It set the seal on a terrible year - I call it my 'year of the pancake' - the year when everything 'flipped'.

"I won't forget how comforting it was to have Samaritans' number by my bedside, just in case I needed to call in the middle of the night. I could never have predicted that I would become a volunteer for Samaritans. Having been through difficult times myself, I realised how important it was to be there for someone in need.

"It's a time of year that can be a pressure-point for people, particularly if you're going to be spending Christmas on your own; all the emphasis on happy families can make you feel even more alone.

"It would be a tragedy if Samaritans wasn't able to be there for those in distress. Making a donation will ensure we're there for everyone who needs help. It's a 24/7 service, and your gift will help pay for that and the training for volunteers like me."

Be a part of someone's story – send a gift to help them change it for the better by visiting: www.samaritans.org/christmas. Samaritans' services are there for anyone who needs them this Christmas and every single day of the year. Follow the campaign on social media by searching for the hashtag, #bepartofthestory.

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Or combine a pair of Olsen or Marble jeans in the wonderful colours of autumn with a chunky jumper from Great Plains; top off with a gilet – another great look.

If you've been invited to friends for supper, it's always hard getting the balance right. Mix it up a little, try a pair of pleather jeans with a sparkly jumper from Bianca, Olsen or Lebek and top off with a sumptuous faux fur coat – you're sure to be invited back!

If the invitation is a little more formal, why not try a beautiful Pomodoro black dress threaded with silver lurex – pure luxury! Top that with a poncho, et voila! If like me you're more of a trouser girl, come and have a look at Bianca; their trousers are beautifully cut and elegant. Pair those with a fitted jacket and a statement necklace for a different kind of chic.

At Samantha B, we really do have something for every occasion. Come and have a look at the lovely Barbara Lebek tops, always feminine and slightly shorter in the body.

Adini and Capri are renowned for their tunics which offer a lovely alternative to jumpers and tops.

And if that's not enough to digest, we have a super selection of outerwear!

Once all the celebrations are over, how about slipping into a comfortable pair of jeans and a lovely longline fluffy waistcoat with a lovely top; super lounge wear, but smart enough in case any surprise guests turn up unexpectedly.

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Expert advice could help to avoid dispute

BRENDAN Sweeney, of David Prosser & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population does not have a will.

A will takes effect on your death, and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to it.

It is important that people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place powers of attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if you lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Get your pooch pampered at Posh Paws

IF you want your pet furry friend looking his or her best for the festive season, then the place to visit is Posh Pawz, on the main street in Rhoose.

Kath has been in town for more than seven years, and Christmas is the busiest time of the year with owners smartening up their dogs before taking them to family gatherings.

It is in fact her seventh Christmas here, so customers know what to expect.

Kath and Shan said: "The support from the people of the Vale over the years has been great, and we would like to wish all our customers a very happy Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you next year."

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Golfers raise thousands for Crohn's and Colitis charity

LADIES of Brynhill Golf Club, Barry, held their annual dinner with nearly 40 in attendance on November 19.

A spokesman said: "This is always a fun evening and this year was no exception.

"The evening started with a cheque presentation to Crohn's and Colitis UK charity. The Ladies' captain Jo Kirkpatrick introduced Helen de Saulles, lead volunteer for the charity for the south Wales region and Rhian Francis, also a volunteer for the charity.

"Helen gave a short but informative talk explaining that Crohn's disease and colitis are both incurable diseases; and that with more fundraising and putting money into research, one day there could be a cure.

"Helen named a few celebrities who suffer from these diseases and who in their own way are helping to highlight the importance of the charity.

"The CCUK's campaign slogan is 'Not Every Disability is Visible' and these signs are appearing more and more in shops and restaurants and pubs."

Ms Kirkpatrick presented a £1,200 cheque to Helen and Rhian and informed all the ladies present that £1,300 had already been given to CCUK, raised from a garden party hosted by Jan Tattersall (£300) and from HSBC which matched pound for pound up to £1,000.

The spokesman added: "So a magnificent £2,500 in total. Jo thanked all the golfing ladies for supporting her Captain's Charity.

"A raffle and games were held to raise money for Children in Need. Lots of fun ensued and £150 was raised."

November 10 hole competition results:

November 5: Sparklers – Winner, Sue Holland, 20 pts; November 12: Lisa Taylor, Muddy Slopes, 17pts; November 19: Jane Phillips, Pudsey Puddles, 21 pts.

Safety first for new scout group

From left to right: Andy Moss, Julianne Paschal, Donna Parker and Mark Casling.

A GROUP of local children will now be staying safe and seen on the roads this winter following a donation of high-visibility vests to a Scout group.

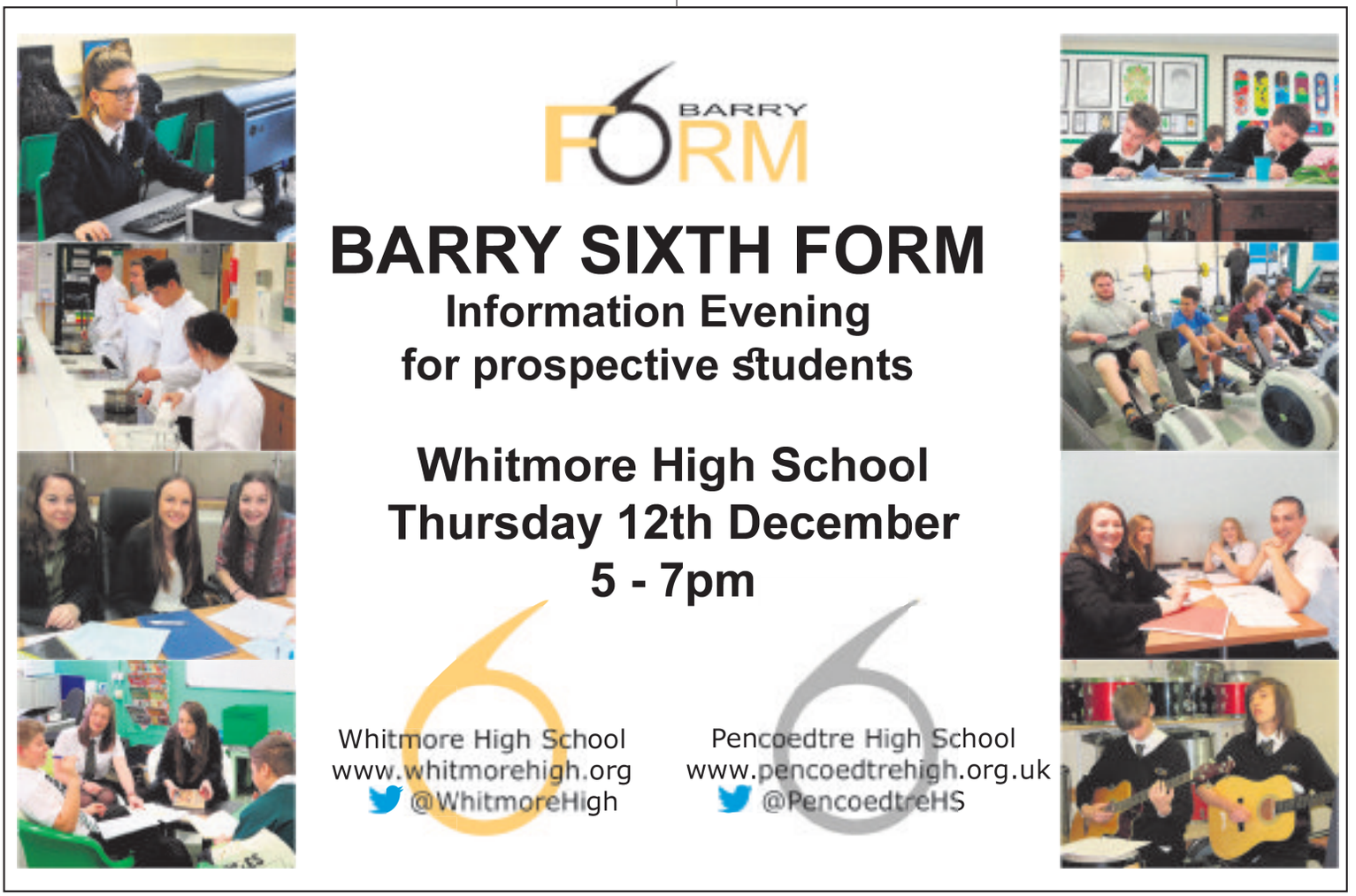
Specsavers in Cowbridge has donated 50 vests to the newly-formed 1st Pontyclun Scout Group, which recently set up a Beaver colony for six-to-eight year olds, and will be forming a Cub pack and Scout troop for older children in the new year.

Andy Moss, ophthalmic director at Specsavers Cowbridge, said: "With the dark nights closing in early, awareness of road safety is more important than ever, especially for youngsters who are out and about in the community.

"The new group is still on the hunt for adult leaders so we wanted to do our part to raise awareness of them to families in our community, and ensure that all members are kept safe as they take part in scouting activities."

Mark Casling, from Rhondda Cynon Taf District Scouts said: "Thanks to the generosity of the team at Cowbridge Specsavers, the children in our group can take their first foray into Scouting with us safe in the knowledge that they will be seen by other road users when they're out and about.

"It's a very generous donation and one we were delighted to accept."



Out & About with The GEM

Fleabag comes to Penarth

THERE is a second chance to see Phoebe Waller Bridge's *Fleabag* in Penarth's Paget Rooms, recorded in front of a live audience at Wyndham's Theatre in London's West End, on December 10.

See the hilarious, award-winning, one-woman show that inspired the BBC's hit TV series *Fleabag*, broadcast live to cinemas from London's West End.

Written and performed by Phoebe Waller-Bridge (*Fleabag, Killing Eve*) and directed by Vicky Jones, this 67 minute play is a rip-roaring look at some sort of woman living her sort of life.

Described as 'Witty, filthy and supreme' by the Guardian, *Fleabag* may seem oversexed, emotionally unfiltered and self-obsessed, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. With family and friendships under strain and a guinea pig café struggling to keep afloat, Fleabag suddenly finds herself with nothing to lose.

Playing to sold-out audiences in New York and London, don't miss your chance to see this 'legitimately hilarious show' (New Yorker), broadcast live to a cinema near you.

Tickets available online or by calling the Town Council Offices on 02920 700 721.

Events in your area

Enfys Craft Fair

THE last Enfys Craft Fair for this year will take place on Saturday, December 7 at St Ffransis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry, CF62 6NX.

Stalls include cushions, pencil cases, place mats, puppets, wood turned gifts, jewellery and Christmas cards.

The charity raffle is for Velindre Cancer Centre.

The next craft fair will be held on February 1; for more information contact Reg on 01446 792149 or Patricia on 01656 880784.

Christmas Fair at CF61

CF61 is hosting a Christmas fair on Saturday, December 7 from 12 noon – 4pm at CF61, Station Road, Llantwit Major CF61 1ST. Entry is free.

Hot drinks 50p each, if you bring your own re-useable cup.

Evening of Clairvoyance

ON Saturday, December 7 an Evening of Clairvoyance with Tom Dodds takes place at Buttrills Hall, North Walk, Barry; a carol service will also be held.

Doors open at 6.30pm, to start at 7pm; £5 entrance at door plus free raffle ticket. For further enquiries, please call 07737 704355.

Friends of Ty Hafan

A CHRISTMAS fair will be held by the Friends of Ty Hafan on December 8 at the Old School Hall in Sully, from 2pm – 4.30pm.

Entry is free, but there is a charge to visit Santa's Grotto.

Midwinter concert in Porthcawl

PORTHCAWL Community Singers present A Midwinter Christmas Night on Saturday, December 7 at 7pm at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl.

Guest performers are Chordis Caerlion Harp Ensemble. There will be a raffle and mince pies and wine in the interval. Tickets £6 at door or from choir members.

Light Up Llancarfan

JOIN us in Llancarfan on Sunday, December 8 at 7pm to light the village tree that kicks off the festive season!

All are welcome to sing carols around the tree and to partake of mulled wine and mince pies – kindly provided by Rhi and Jim from the Fox and Hounds.

Porthcawl Rotary Club

PORTHCAWL Rotary Club's annual Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints' Church starts on December 2: public viewing is from December 3-7 from 11am-5pm and Sunday, December 8 from 11.30am-4pm. Refreshments and raffle (for hampers).

On Wednesday, December 4 at 7pm, a Young Musicians competition will take place in the church, open to young people 17 or under. The Festival Choir Concert takes place on Thursday, December 5 at 7pm, free entry. The John Street collection will take place on December 14 and 20 from 9.30am–4pm and on Christmas Eve 9.30am–12pm. The Carolcade is on December 10, 12, 17 and 19. Route and times will be advised.

Rotary Post will operate as last year, with 25p stamps on sale in designated shops in Porthcawl until December 9.

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Airport to host coffee morning for older people

CARDIFF Airport, in conjunction with Age Cymru, is to host a coffee morning for older people from across the Vale.

The event, which is free of charge will take place on Friday, December 13 between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

During the event there will be a taster session in Tai Chi, an activity increasingly popular with older people that helps improve balance, agility and flexibility.

There will be information about Age Cymru's campaign called Spread the Warmth, which provides lots of good advice about how older people can make themselves more resilient to the challenges of winter by, for example, keeping their homes warm and eating a healthy diet.

There will also be an opportunity to chat with airport staff and, as it's getting close to Christmas, there will be a gift for everyone at the event.

Age Cymru's Sarah Megson said: "We know that isolation and loneliness can be a huge problem for older people in Wales. Our research shows that more than 330,000 older people in Wales feel that a few minutes of conversation would make a huge difference to their week.

"Hosting a coffee morning is such a simple but effective way of connecting older people, helping them to make new friends and renew existing friendships."

If you'd like to come along, simply book your place by calling Age Cymru on 029 2043 1555 or emailing enquiries@agecymru.org.uk.

What's on, and where?

Art and Craft group

LLANTWIT Major Art and Craft group will be holding their last meeting before Christmas on Friday, December 6 at 7.30pm at Llantonian Hall.

Felix Butters will be demonstrating various ways to decorate your own Christmas wrapping paper. Visitors are welcome to join in for a £3 fee.

Environmental husting

VOTERS in the Vale are being invited to attend a Nature and the Environment Question Time Hustings on Thursday, December 5, at the All Saints Church Hall, Park Road, Barry at 6.30pm. The event is being held by Barry Action for Nature and is free.

Councillors' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independent councillors will be holding a surgery at the Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major on Saturday, December 7 from 9.30am until 11.30am. Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome.

Christmas concert at the Tabernacl

TABERNACL Choir's Christmas concert is truly a festive occasion and will be held on Friday, December 6 in Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend at 7pm.

The seasonal concert will feature Matthew Nash as conductor and Glenn Crooks as accompanist. Alison Shone (soprano) and Sian Cameron (mezzo soprano) will join the choir in the first half in a performance of Vivaldi's 'Gloria'.

During the second half, the concert will continue with a variety of carols to celebrate Christmas.

The Kwok sisters will perform duets on the piano, and Alison Shone and Sian Cameron will entertain with their chosen solos.

Tickets are £10 and include the cost of the programmes which contain congregational hymns and biographical notes on those taking part.

Please join in and begin your Christmas activities with this enjoyable concert.

Karate kids drum up vital funds to support disabled residents

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council's day service, New Horizons, recently benefited from a generous donation presented by Barry's Rising Sun Kyokushin Karate Club.

At the club's annual tournament, 20 children took to the dojo to showcase their fighting skills.

Points were awarded for demonstrating the technical aspects of Kyokushin, as well as outstanding performance and contact.

The youngsters also raised £110 at the event, which was later donated to the Hen Goleg League of Friends Charity for New Horizons Day Service in Barry.

New Horizons Day Service offers a day service for Vale residents living with a permanent or substantial physical disability.

The service aims to enhance people's wellbeing by supporting their health, social life and independence, as well as maintaining and developing skills. The service relies on a team of dedicated and experienced staff and provides a range of therapeutic and creative activities.

The centre is equipped with a specialist gym and exercise classes and offers communal activities such as woodworking, crafts and music.

They also provide personal care, advocacy, support for communication, emotional support and respite for carers.

Lance Carver, director of social services said: "It's inspiring to see such a group of compassionate and conscientious youngsters – we're grateful for their donation. Contributions such as these can help ensure that disabled people have access to specialist exercise equipment."

Send us your stories, photos and sports reports

Celebrate Christmas at Coytrahen Community Centre

RESIDENTS are being encouraged to get into the festive mood and head to Coytrahen Community Centre this weekend for its annual Christmas Bazaar.

This Saturday's event starts at 3pm and will include a visit from Father Christmas in a horse and carriage.

Festivities continue outdoors with a musical treat from Ogmore Valley Silver Band at 4pm followed by the Christmas lights switch-on at 4.30pm.

After the switch-on, there will be a spot of community carol singing led by Tom Green and his singers.

An event spokesman said: "Refreshments will be available on site, with plenty to keep you warm during the celebrations.

"Why not bring all the family along to enjoy this early evening Christmas celebration?

"Our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas dinner will take place on Monday, December 9 at 1pm in the community centre, to round off Coytrahen's full week of Christmas celebrations."

Lions support Big Wrap appeal

PRESIDENT of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions, Sue Taylor, visited the Big Wrap event this week to hand over a cheque for £500 to help make sure Christmas reaches every child in the Vale.

The Big Wrap provides presents to children and teenagers who might otherwise receive nothing or very little for Christmas.

Last year it provided Christmas presents to over 350 disadvantaged children and young people in the Vale and this year they are expecting even more referrals.

Working in partnership with local agencies, the Big Wrap is run by volunteers and relies entirely on donations from local organisations and members of the public.

Anyone with enquiries about how to get involved in the Big Wrap should contact Susan Lloyd-Selby by calling 07725 773746 or emailing bigwrap@yahoo.co.uk.

A spokesman said: "Donations to the Lions at events such as the recent Cowbridge Reindeer Parade and Llantwit Major Christmas market go towards supporting such causes. The Lions thank everyone who supports us."

Latest from the Quiz League

THE results from the Bridgend Quiz League for November 25 are:

Division 1: Tondu Railway Club 47, Oldcastle A 42; Penybont AFC Nomads 56, Laleston Inn A 48; Chatterton Shunters 48, TyRisha Royals 44; Mackworth Arms 49, Crown Maesteg 42.

Division 2: Six Bells Clangers 50, Cabo Roche 50; Pheasant Pluckers 50, Prince of Wales Rebels 45; Laleston Inn B 46, Pheasant Gamekeepers 47; Oldcastle B 44, Tondu Railway Locos 41.

Test your knowledge with these teasers:

1. Which TV snooker commentator once said 'For those of you who are watching in black and white, the pink is next to the green'?

2. Which disaster movie had its premiere in Tokyo in 1997?

3. What is the fibrous protein found in fingernails and hair?

Answers: 1. (Whispering) Ted Lowe; 2. Titanic; 3. Keratin.

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Maguire's Park Homes

Headteacher 'thrilled' with Estyn's inspection

STAFF, parents and pupils at West Park Primary School are extremely pleased with the recent judgements that Estyn have made about their school.

Inspectors found that the very high standards of wellbeing are a notable strength of the school.

Pupils display exemplary behaviour around school and they show very high levels of care, concern and empathy towards each other.

A positive atmosphere for learning is created through strong working relationships between teachers, support staff and pupils.

The school creates a rich and varied curriculum for the children which is helping them to successfully develop as ethical, informed citizens.

They engage in themes such as 'peace and conflict', 'incredible oceans' and 'Banksy', which it was found has helped pupils to develop a deep understanding of fairness and equality and has made them eloquent advocates for environmental reform.

Pupil voice within the school is excellent and youngsters are highly active in the various pupil voice groups, which overall is having an exceptionally positive effect on developing pupils' skills as responsible members of the school community.

Children throughout the school use their literacy, numeracy, ICT and thinking skills across the curriculum and they make good progress throughout their time at the school.

Headteacher Mrs Morgan said: "I am thrilled with the report and it reflects how dedicated, committed and hard working school staff are in ensuring pupils receive an excellent range of learning experiences that they clearly enjoy, as well as continually striving to improve outcomes and progress of pupils."

Chat to Pobl at West Quay Medical Centre

STAFF at West Quay Medical Centre in Barry understand the importance of patients having a sense of wellbeing.

Wellbeing doesn't just mean not feeling ill and affects everything we do, day to day.

The practice has its own Patient Participation Group which has been working to think of how a patient's sense of wellbeing can be improved, including their own.

A new group has been formed to help get people together, to get them chatting and to get them more active – called 'Pobl', which means 'people.'

Members of Pobl will be holding a small craft sale at the practice in Hood Road on Tuesday, December 10 from 11am.

There will be small handmade gifts for sale, at pocket money prices.

There will also be a small sale of books, including those which may be of interest to steam train or railway enthusiasts.

A 'memory tree' will also soon be available where it will be possible to remember important people by hanging either a tag or a small heart on the tree.

Little hearts will be available to buy on the day (and there will be members of Pobl available to chat on how patients can also get involved with the group.

Members of Pobl are trying to raise funds to enable a medical centre garden project to begin – aptly named 'The Happy Diggers' - and to save up enough to buy a 'sit and chat' bench.

All funds raised at the sale will be put towards the bench project.

A spokesman said: "Please come along and say hello; you will be made very welcome."

Walking Nativity in Cowbridge

HAVE you ever wanted to know what it actually felt like to be with Mary and Joseph at the time of Jesus's birth?

Well, now you can. On December 15 (for one night only this year), come rain or moonshine, the Old Hall Gardens and Physic Garden in Cowbridge will be transformed into an exact replica of first century Palestine.

Perhaps that's overstating it a little, but there will be real people, real carols, and a real manger.

Churches Together in Cowbridge will be performing one of the most important stories Mankind has ever told and celebrating it afterwards with mince pies and mulled wine at Old Hall.

The Walking Nativity will be at 6pm on December 15, starting in the Old Hall Gardens just by Cowbridge library. It is free and there is no need to book. If you have any enquiries in the meantime, please call 01446 775048.

Please note that it will be dark and the Light of the World appears halfway through the story, so you will need to bring a torch.

Latest news from Friendship Club

IT was a fitting end to the Cowbridge Friendship Club's last meeting for 2019 when members were entertained by 'With Music in Mind' from Llantwit Major with their repertoire, together with many Christmas carols.

A spokesman said: "Everyone agreed it was a very enjoyable afternoon, and then followed a festive Christmas afternoon tea.

"The next meeting of the Cowbridge Friendship Club will be on Thursday, January 30.

"We always have a variety of activities at our meetings and if you would like to know more about the club call 01446 774524."

Campaign to stop violence against women gets council's support

ABOVE: Partners, cabinet and staff with managing director Rob Thomas holding the VAW flag.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council recently supported White Ribbon Day, a campaign to end male violence against women.

Managing director Rob Thomas was among those to pledge their allegiance to the cause at the launch on November 25 by leaving a personal message in a book in the Civic Office reception.

Badges were on sale, as well as information about becoming an ambassador, while a white flag will fly outside the main entrance on Holton Road for the 16-day duration of the campaign.

It seeks to highlight the link between violence against women and human rights and runs from November 25, UN International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women to December 10, Human Rights Day.

By pledging, men promise never to commit, condone or remain silent about domestic abuse and all forms of violence towards women.

Mr Thomas said: "This is an important campaign that seeks to recognise the problem of male violence against women. As a council, it is important we show our support for such a worthwhile initiative and I was delighted to pledge my allegiance to the cause along with a large number of colleagues."

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Cosmology corner with Norman Lloyd: The Crab Nebula

THE Crab Nebula - FROM late autumn, one of the most studied and well known objects in the firmament is best placed for observing.

The beautiful Crab Nebula is fairly easy to find from that most recognisable of constellations, Orion. Draw an imaginary line about 450 up and to the right from the bright orange coloured star Betelgeuse at Orion's shoulder to the equally bright star, Capella in Auriga.

About half way along that line you will find the star Beta Tauri. Tracking about a third of the way back to Betelgeuse you will come to the fainter star, Zeta Tauri.

A scan of the area just above this star should reveal a small faint smudge. Binoculars or a small telescope will show its oblong shape but not the intricate filamentary structure revealed by Hubble.

The Crab Nebula is so named because it looks vaguely like a crab: in reality it is a vast expanding cloud of dust and debris, the scattered fragments of a supernova.

This violent stellar explosion was actually observed on Earth as a 'guest star' by Chinese skywatchers on July 4 of the year 1054 AD.

The new star outshone Venus, becoming the third brightest object in the sky after the Sun and Moon. It was seen in the daylight sky for several weeks and was visible at night for nearly two years before fading.

It is believed that skywatchers of the Anasazi people in the American southwest also viewed the bright new star.

A rock painting from Chaco Canyon in New Mexico depicts a multi-spiked star (the supernova) near a crescent moon. Historical research shows that a crescent moon was indeed visible in that region of the sky on the morning of July 5, 1054, the day following the observations by the Chinese.

The Crab Nebula is known to be 6,500 light years from Earth so, as the supernova explosion which created it was observed on Earth in 1054, its progenitor star must have actually exploded around 7,500 years ago.

Having faded from view by July 1056, it was not seen again until 1731 when a faint nebulosity was recorded by the English astronomer, John Bevis.

The nebula was rediscovered in 1758 by the French comet hunter Charles Messier and it became the first entry in his Messier Catalogue, hence its designation M1.

William Parsons, the third Earl of Rosse, observed M1 through his large telescope in Ireland and described it as having the shape of a crab. Since then M1 has been more commonly called the Crab Nebula.

It was not until the 20th century, however, that astronomers realised that the nebula was expanding (by a billion km per day) and by reversing the expansion rate they traced it back to an incident which must have occurred 900 years previously.

As a result, the Crab Nebula was directly linked to the Chinese records of the 1054 'guest' star and is the first ever object to be recognised as a supernova remnant.

As a star approaches the end of its life, there is insufficient nuclear fuel remaining to produce the outward pressure needed to hold back the crushing force of gravity from its enormous mass.

At a certain point, the star collapses violently and the core is squeezed to unimaginable densities. Depending on the mass of the star, the remnant of a supernova explosion is either a neutron star or, in the case of high mass stars, a black hole.

At the centre of the Crab Nebula lies a neutron star - a tiny, dense rapidly rotating ball in which the electrons have been pressed into protons to form neutrons. It is thought to be only 18 miles (30km) in diameter but has at least 1.5 times the mass of the Sun. A teaspoonful would weigh around a billion tons!

When the core of the progenitor star was crushed into this neutron star, its outer portions bounced off and spread into space forming the great cloud of debris and cosmic dust which we know see as the Crab Nebula.

Christina comes out on top in spelling bee

ABOVE: Andrea Byrne, champion Christina and Karen Paullada.

LAST week the senior hall at St Clare's School, Porthcawl was buzzing with excitement for their inter-school Spelling Bee.

The six primary schools who had accepted the challenge were West Park, Trelales, Cwmfelin, St Mary's RC, Oakleigh House Prep and St Clare's Prep School.

Competition was fierce, with each school's top year 6 or year 5 spellers all competing to be the Spelling Bee champion.

Pupils were required to spell a word in front of a panel of three judges, as well as a large audience of teachers, pupils and parents.

Despite the tremendous pressure of the final round, Christina John, a year 6 pupil from St Mary's RC Primary in Bridgend managed to overcome all the obstacles of the competition to succeed as the overall Spelling Bee champion. In second place was Noor Anjum from Oakleigh House Prep in Swansea.

Christina's proud mum said: "Christina's always loved reading since an early age and loves being curled up with a good book."

This year's judges were journalist and TV presenter Andrea Byrne, actress and writer, Karen Paullada and St Clare's sixth form English literature student, Grace Daunter.

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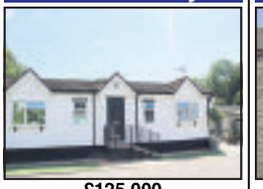

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Tony Yates has his say on Hyundai's Tucson N Line

THIS week's review puts me in the driving seat of the Hyundai Tucson N Line, a vehicle that I hope will tick all the boxes for many.

Power and Efficiency:

Fitted with a 1,598cc CRDi diesel engine with 136PS @ 4,000rpm and 320Nm of torque at 2,000 - 2,250rpm. 0-62mph is around 11.2sec, and fuel consumption is a decent 48.7 mpg combined with a top speed of 112mph.

Now, I know from having many conversations with many people that everyone thinks the word 'diesel' is a dirty word. Well, I'm here to tell you it's not. I'm here to tell you it's ok to buy a diesel vehicle. Why would it not be? Letters on a postcard to the editor if you disagree with me on this one.

Also, it's a mild-hybrid meaning it's playing its part in moving with the times as well as saving you some money. So, what's the 48v system there for? Well, it's there to be on hand to help acceleration at key moments for optimum performance.

It does this by recouping the energy under braking – which it then stores away for use when you need it most. To simplify that, it makes a little extra bhp when you need it most, which I hope helps the Tucson stand out as a decent mild-hybrid.

On the road:

It's pretty nimble for such a large car: take the Tucson out on the open road, and you soon begin to feel just how well it grips. The chassis and the suspension also felt well-honed to what the wheels at each corner are doing – which makes for a thrilling ride for the driver as well as a solid performer out on the open road for someone looking for something a little bit 'sportier'.

Design & Technology

Standard equipment on the Tucson N Line starts with; 19" alloy wheels, N Line badging, N Line exclusive front and rear bumpers, N Line grill, N Line leather and suede seats, dual-zone climate control, auto headlights with dusk sensors, parking sensors front and rear, parking system rear camera, Bluetooth connectivity, DAB digital radio with six speakers, 8" touchscreen navigation, ABS, AEB, BAS, DBC (Downhill Brake Control) ESP, ESS, HAC, LKA (Lane Keep Assist) and VSM (Vehicle Stability Management).

To sum up:

What can I say – the Tucson is a great drive and perfect for someone who wants a vehicle that comes with a large amount of space and many extras for a reasonable amount of money. Hopefully, you will now go out and give it a test drive and see for yourself what the Tucson has to offer.

Price: from £28,010 (price as tested).

Sky Notes look to the December skies

IN December, the Milky Way is right overhead and the view through a pair of binoculars will show more stars than you can count.

The different colours should also be apparent. If you are lucky enough to watch from a dark sky location, the Milky Way arm of our Galaxy should be visible to the naked eye but, if like most people your view is from a light polluted area, you may wonder what we have lost.

The square of Pegasus can be found in the south west and running from the top left-hand star of the square, we find the stars of Andromeda, where with the aid of binoculars we can locate the Andromeda Galaxy.

Just overhead and amongst the Milky Way stars is Cassiopeia (its five main stars form the letter 'W'). To Andromeda's left is Perseus, another fine constellation.

Perseus is well worth sweeping with binoculars as it contains some bright star clusters.

One of the best is known is the 'double' cluster, two small distinct groups of stars which can be seen in the same binocular field.

They lie about 8,000 light years away, may have 20,000 solar masses between them, and both clusters are moving towards our solar system.

Either side of the Milky Way we find Auriga with its bright star Capella and, to the left of Perseus is Taurus.

Here we find its two open star clusters, each visible to the naked eye; the Pleiades, (also known as the seven sisters - due to the number of stars that can be seen with the naked eye on a clear Moonless night. However, binoculars will show many more stars making up this show-piece of the heavens).

The other cluster is called the Hyades. You can tell the difference as the stars of the Hyades are more spread out and form a distinct 'V' shape.

Right in the middle of the group is a bright orange star, Aldebaran, although it is not a member of the group, lying closer to Earth than the cluster itself. The Pleiades stars are a much tighter group.

The Moon is below the planet Uranus on December 8 and on December 10, it forms a triangle with the Pleiades and Hyades, and on December 5 it will pass in front (occult) a naked eye star.

The time of the event is approximately 18.05, but you will need to begin your watch at least 20 minutes before.

The star will disappear on the dark limb of the Moon. Think of the Moon as a clock face and watch the area about 11 o'clock; use your binoculars and it is even better if they can be mounted on a tripod.

Two meteor showers are due in December. Unfortunately, the Geminids peak on December 14, but the Moon is full on December 12 so bright moonlight is likely to drown most meteors out. However, on December 23, the Ursid shower peaks – look below and around the area of the Plough.

Visit www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com for times of observing sessions and meetings.

Dave Powell

Top tips for picking the best Christmas tree

GEM readers have been offered ten top tips when it comes to choosing their Christmas tree to help ensure it lasts over the festive period.

Plant experts from GardenBuildingsDirect.co.uk are encouraging people to read up about the differences between firs and spruces to make sure they choose the best tree for them.

A Christmas tree is, for many, one of the main symbols of Christmas, with the act of picking one signifying the start of the festivities. However, in order for the trees to take pride of place in the house, the correct size, shape and type of tree must be chosen.

A spokesperson for GardenBuildingsDirect.co.uk said: "Almost every house in Britain will have at least one Christmas tree in their house, whether it's real or artificial.

"For many, the smell of a fresh Christmas tree is the draw to choosing a real one, but in order to keep this, and the whole tree smelling fresh, there are a number of things that must be done.

"As with anything, preparation is key. Knowing the space it will be placed, the height and shape of the tree you want and being prepared to keep watering it will make sure it looks as good as new for as long as possible."

The top ten Christmas tree tips are:

1. Pick a quality tree stand – it should be sturdy to ensure there's no spillages over the festive season. Remember the taller the tree the wider the diameter, so this also needs to be taken into account. A stand which can hold a lot of water will also mean that watering isn't something else to add onto your to-do list.

2. Buy your tree at the right time – buy it too soon and it won't be looking it's best come the big day. Norway spruces usually last around 12 days, so not ideal if you're planning to buy in early December. Nordmann firs however, are excellent due to needles not dropping, but this does cause them to be more expensive.

3. Measure, measure, and measure again – there's nothing worse than picking the perfect tree, taking it home and having to cut at it. Before you leave home make sure you've measured the amount of space you can give your tree – width and height. You can then measure the tree before you purchase it. Don't forget to take into account the height a stand could give you!

4. Make a fresh cut – once you get home, cut off at least half an inch from the bottom of the trunk so the tree will begin to soak up water immediately.

5. Decide where to place the tree – putting your tree near sunny windows, radiators, heating vents and fireplaces can quickly dry it out causing it to die quicker. Keeping it away from busy areas will also help it keep its needles for longer.

6. Know what kind of tree you want – each tree species is different, so knowing what you want before you go to buy it can help save you a lot of time. If you have children or pets opting for a pine or fire tree means you there will only be soft needles. Spruce trees have much sharper needles which can hurt once stepped on. Trees with shorter needles are often easier to decorate as they offer more space between branches.

7. Trim any rogue branches – if you trim straggly branches, make sure it's at an angle parallel to the floor so they're not obvious. You can then use these branches to decorate fireplaces and bannisters, just make sure you keep them in water until you decorate.

8. Make sure the tree is securely in the stand – it is sometimes easier to place the tree in the stand outside to stop loose needles from falling inside the house. Tip the tree on is side and tighten the levelling clamps of the stand around the base of the trunk. Then lift the tree into the standing position before carrying it to its new home.

9. Maintain your tree's moisture – to keep your tree alive for as long as possible, make sure it always has a supply of fresh water. It may drink a lot over the first few days, but after around a week intake should slow down.

10. Check the tree's freshness – the best way to do this is to bend a single needle in half. A needle from a fresh fir tree will snap, whereas one from a fresh pine will bend but not break. Needles should also look shiny and green and shouldn't fall off when you lightly pull on a branch.

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Family Notices

REES
Myron (John)

John sadly passed away on 16th November 2019. A loving husband of Marilyn, wonderful father to Caryn, Sally, Jason and Gareth and cherished pops of Sasha, Thomas, Alexandra, Lily and Ned. He was greatly loved and will be sorely missed by all his family and friends. John was a foreman at Aberthaw power station before his retirement.

Resting at Green Willow Funerals until his funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Monday 9th December 2019 at 2pm.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu can be made on the day of the service or directly to Dementia U.K.

All enquires to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel: 029 2051 4627.

VIGGERS
John Soren

Suddenly, but peacefully at The Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on Saturday, 23rd November 2019, with his family at his side. Beloved husband to Sue, devoted dad to Richard, Huw, Laura, their partners and Jack the dog. Loved brother, nephew, uncle, son-in-law, brother-in-law, great-uncle and friend.

John will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, 9th December, service and cremation 10am at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation, a charity that was close to John c/o the funeral director.

MASTERS
Diane

Passed away suddenly on Thursday, 14th November at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Diane of Kingshill, Porthcawl; much loved daughter of the late Ernest and Vera and a dearly loved sister of the late Andrew, will be sadly missed.

Funeral service on Friday, 13th December at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Mawdlam at 11.30am, followed by cremation at Margam Crematorium at 12.30pm.

Donations in lieu of flowers, if so desired to the Kidney Wales Foundation, Cardiff c/o Richard Mustoe of Porthcawl Funeral Services, 75 New Road, Porthcawl, CF36 5DH. Tel: 01656 783699.

JONES
Merrill

Suddenly at home on the 18th November Merrill Christine Jones sadly past away. Dearly beloved wife of Alan Joseph Jones of Cora Street, Barry. Dearly loved mother of Ann and the late Steve and son-in-law Dave. Cherished grandmother of Angharad and Matthew.

Merrill will be sorely missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Wednesday, 11th December at 11am.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home prior to the service.

Family Notices

COLLINS
Dorothy (Dot)

Passed away peacefully on 19th November 2019 at the UHW.

Funeral service Wednesday, 11th December at 11am at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only.

CLEMENTS
Judith (*née* Redrup)

On 24th November 2019 at The Sam Davies Ward, Barry Hospital, Judith sadly passed away. Dearly beloved wife of Owain. Loving mother of Tim and Cathryn and cherished grandmother.

Judith will be sorely missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Wednesday, 11th December at 1pm.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made to Sam Davies Ward, Barry Hospital.

ROBERTS
Thomas Rees

Peacefully on 28th November, at home, Rees of Cowbridge (former proprietor of Roberts Sports shops); beloved husband of Kay, loving father of Matthew and Sarah, respected father-in-law of Alan and much loved papa of Molly and Lily.

Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Monday, 16th December, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm, where friends please meet.

Family flowers only, donations if so desired for Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis c/o W.H Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN. Tel: 01443 223368

PARRY
Mike

Passed away peacefully on 21st November 2019, at home. Cherished husband to the late Jill. Loving father to Jonathan, Nigel and Caroline. Adored grandfather to Freya, Ellie, Owain, Erin, Ryan, Thomas, Adam and Bethan. Beloved father-in-law to Harriet and Kim.

Mike will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

He will live on forever in our hearts.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Monday, 9th December at 12pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry

Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, in lieu of flowers may be made to Tenovus Cancer Care.

GADD
Philip William

Passed away peacefully after a short illness at Llandough Hospital on 27th November 2019, aged 77 years. Devoted husband to Jackie, loving father and grandfather.

Phil will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our chapel on Friday, 13th December at 2pm, followed by a committal service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Flowers may be sent directly to the funeral or donations in lieu of flowers may be made at the service to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

CLARK
Tameralda (Tammy)

Passed away peacefully on 18th November 2019 at University Hospital of Wales with her family by her side. Cherished and adored daughter to Derek and the late Dilys. Loving sister to Cheryl, Graham and Nigel. Adored auntie to Sarah, Emma, Laura, Kerry, Jamie and Hayley and all her great-nieces and nephews.

Tammy will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

She will live on forever in our hearts.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Monday,16th December at 11am at A.G. Adams Chapel of Rest, followed by committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired in lieu of flowers may be made to Ty Hafan.

Family Notices

COATES
Ernest William

Cherished husband, father and grandfather, peacefully passed away at his home in Miskin on Monday, 25th November 2019.

Service to be held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Thursday, 12th December at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon. Donations in lieu of flowers to Cancer Research UK.

FITZGERALD
Gerald Martin

Peacefully on Saturday, 30th November at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Gerald of Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl, formerly of Llantwit Major; beloved husband of Adell, much loved father of Lisa and a loving Bamps, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral service on Wednesday, 18th December at Coychurch Crematorium at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, to the British Heart Foundation c/o Richard Mustoe of Porthcawl Funeral Services, 75 New Road, Porthcawl, CF36 5DH, Tel: 01656 783699.

BLADEN
Violet May

The family wish to announce the sad passing of Vi on 28th November 2019. Devoted and loved wife of the late Herbert, much loved mam, mother-in-law, nan and great-grandmother.

Vi will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at Roy Larcombe, 56/58 Carlisle Street, Splott until the funeral service at St Saviours Church, Splott on Thursday, 12th December at 1pm, afterwards to Thornhill Crematorium, Wenallt Chapel at 2pm.

Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral home.

VELDA
Marilyn (*née* Galsworthy)

Passed away peacefully after a short illness at Llandough Hospital on Friday, 22nd November 2019, aged 70 years. Loving wife of the late Barrie, beloved mother of John and Jody, cherished grandmother of Jordan and Jenson.

Marilyn will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Friday, 13th December 2019 at 12noon. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to Ty Hafan.

HARVEY
Paul

Passed away peacefully on 22nd November 2019 at home with his family by his side. Cherished and adored fiancé to Ruth. Loving dad to Jason and Carl, step-dad to Kezia, Phillip and Ian. Adored grampy to Theo, Tessia and Josie. Wonderful father-in-law to Terri, Katie and Leighton.

Paul will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

He will live on forever in our hearts.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Wednesday, 11th December at 4pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Donations if desired, to Marie Curie.

GRIFFITHS
Vera May

Sadly passed away on 28th November at Marie Curie Hospice, aged 91 years. Beloved wife of the late John, much loved mother of Nicola and Nicholas, respected mother-in-law of Michael and Elaine, dear grandmother of Daniel, Sarah and Ross and Clare and Matthew and great-grandmother of Ethan, Reese, Lucas and Louie.

Will be sadly missed by all her family.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors until the service on Friday, 13th December at 1pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations to Marie Curie Holme Towers, Penarth, if desired.

To advertise your Situations Vacant, Family Notices, Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc Call Sue on 01446 774484 email: sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

In Memory

EDWARDS
Patricia Lillian (Pat)

30.04.1928 - 5.12.2018

In Loving Memory of our precious Mother.

We lived in hope, we lived in vain, that God would make You well again, but God decided we must part. We watched you die, with a broken heart.

Love and miss you always,

Tommy, Tina, Yvonne, Maria, Gerald, Tisha, grandchildren & great-grandchilren xxx

It's a wonderful journey Nan from the old world to the new. Someday I'll take that journey, just to be with you, and when I get to Heaven, I'll put my arms around you Nan and we'll never part again.

Love Susan and Julian xxx

Until we meet again Nan

Those special memories of you will always bring a smile, if only I could have you back for just a little while, then we could sit and talk again, just like we used to do. You always meant so very much and always will do too. The fact that you're no longer here will always cause me pain. But you're forever in my heart until we meet again.

Love Anna, Ben & Kane xxx

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Patricia Trudgian

Never a moment from our thoughts.

Love John, Jeremy, Jonathan, Jenny and all the family *x.*

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Anniversary

Pawlin
Vic & Jenny

EMERALD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

on 5th December 2019

'Thank you Jenny for 55 wonderful years.'

Love Vic x

Birthdays

Happy 1st Birthday

To Our Darling Great-Grandaughter

WILLOW BALL

on 9th December 2019

All our love always,
Grandma & Gramps
xxx

Happy 13th Birthday Lovely Girl

LACEY WILLIAMS- TUMILTY

on 9th December 2019

We hope you have a great day.

Lots of love and kisses,,
Nanny Hazel & Bampy Roy
xxx

Birthdays

Happy 80th Birthday
Colin Barlow

on 8th December 2019

Hope you enjoy the celebrations!

Lots of love from, Diane, Sarah, Jon, Trish & all your grandchildren & great-grandchildren *xxx*

Happy 100th Birthday
Gladys Kilby

Sunday, 8th December 2019

To our dear Mum and Nan wishing you a very Happy 100th Birthday.

All our love,
Alun, Barrie, Cheryl,
Claire & Christopher xxx

Births

Congratulations

Nathan & Hannah

on the birth of

George Arthur FRANCIS

27th November 2019

With much love from Mum & Dad, Tristan, Ning, Vincent, Talia, Sebastian & Benedict. Aaron, Julia & Caleb, Jotham, Helene & Balin xxx

Christmas Greetings

Hugh & Win Knight

of Westward Rise would like to wish our family and all our friends a very Merry Christmas.

A donation will be made to Marie Curie in lieu of Christmas cards.

Leonor (Leo) Meredith

would like to wish their family, friends and neighbours a

Wonderful Christmas & a Happy New Year

Go to TheGEM for the latest stories and breaking news.. www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Thank You

THANK YOU

FRED AUSTIN

Would like to than his daughter Lorraine and son-in-law Vernon for hosting his wonderful party for his 90th Birthday.

Also, thank you to all his friends and family for the wonderful presents and for attending his party.

God Bless you all, lots of love,

Fred xxxx

Send your Christmas Greetings through The GEM!

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Situations Vacant

The Glamorgan GEM

The Glamorgan GEM is seeking a reporter to cover Barry, the Vale of Glamorgan, and Bridgend county borough.

We are seeking a self-starter with a good nose for a story. Someone who can identify the local issues that people care about, and who cares about telling people's stories with care and compassion.

You need to be an excellent writer, accurate and a team player with drive and enthusiasm.

We write about local people and their lives.

You would be based in Cowbridge but encouraged to seek out stories around our circulation area. Consideration will be given to appointing a trainee.

Send your CV and covering letter to: The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL or email

jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Public Notice

LESLIE CECIL HOLMES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of The Manor House St Hilary and formerly of 5 Downs View Close Aberthin Cowbridge CF71 7HG, who died on 12/11/2019, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 07/02/2020, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Barry Town Vets are too strong for Penybont

BARRY Town Vets over-55s got their season back on track with a comfortable victory over visitors Penybont last Sunday at Jenner Park.

The result went some way to erasing memories of their first defeat for over a year against main rivals Swansea in their last outing.

Barry, fielding a depleted squad, were more organised and motivated than the visitors and as a result were the better side for much of the game.

Staddon, Jones, Gibbs and Gibbins were composed in defence, whilst Price, Welsh and particularly Dyke and Dupuy were winning the midfield battle, although in the first half neither keeper was troubled.

The hosts lost former Cardiff City captain Gibbins to a shoulder injury before the break but Brown stepped in seamlessly.

In the second half, the hosts were again the bigger threat and when former Barry player White was given a straight red by the official, in an otherwise competitive but clean match, they were able to stretch the opposition further.

Scorio Jones took full advantage, striding forward unchallenged to the edge of the box, where he unleashed a thunderbolt into the corner of the net to give the home side a deserved lead.

Strikers Bobbett and Sanderson were finally starting to make headway and both had opportunities, but when their teammates switched off for a second at the back, it took a superb headed clearance by substitute Taylor to keep them in front.

Nerves were settled minutes later when Dupuy's fierce strike hit the roof of the net and Sanderson made the game safe with a neat header to put Barry's title defence back in the their hands.

This Sunday (December 1) at 2pm, the over-50s have a must-win game at Jenner Park to maintain any hope of league honours this term. The following Sunday, December 8, sees the over-55s take on Merthyr in the cup, 11am kick off at Jenner Park.

AH

Barry Skittles League – latest results

THE latest results from the Barry and District Mens Skittles League are as follows:

Division 1: Geest 259 (T Hawkins 26), Bunker Boys 279 (C Jennings 31), Cavaliers 287 (M Morris 31), Billy Whizz 279 (K Sansome, M Ingram 27), Sea View 343 (G Evans 36), Merrymen 344 (L Dodgson 37), Willie Wombles 267 (B Gratton 31), Park Lads 277 (D Lambert 29), British Rail 277 (B Cureton, K Brown 29), Posties 272 (M Rees, M Gallimore, I Jones 26). *League*: Merrymen 20, 49ers 20, Billy Whizz 14, Cavaliers 14, Blue Monkey 12, Willie Wombles 10, Park Lads 9, Bunker Boys 7, British Rail 6, Sea View 6, Posties 4, Geest 4.

Division 2: Mighty Dockers 258 (K Enticott, D Newton 25), Castle Boys 245 (N Hughes 24), Barry Park B 264 (A Martin 26), Exiles 242 (J Miles 28), Hairy Lemons 257 (J Birch, R Ryles 24), Cannon Balls 281 (D Cannon 29), Colcot Boys 261 (B Mathews, J Dancey, J Mccann, K Thomas 25), Tynny Lads 284 (S Germon 29), KP Rejects 346 (M Dawe 36), Park Rangers 341 (P Murphy 39), Witchill Poachers 344 (R Ashby 36), H Bells 339 (R Wills, T Cole, T Morgan 32). *League*: Cannon Balls 18, Tynny Lads 16, Mighty Dockers 16, H Bells 14, KP Rejects 14, Colcot Boys 10, Park Rangers 9, Hairy Lemons 9, Barry Park B 9, Witchill Poachers 8, Castle Boys 5, Exiles 2.

Division 3: BP Breakaways 274 (K Power 32), Cocoa Nuts 260 (M James 27), Abercrete 261 (Scott Miller, J Newton 26), Witchill Nomads 268 (J Ogston 30), Royalists 292 (G Davies, D Britton, C Casado 28), Billy Flyers 286 (S Taylor 29), Ex Servicemen 258 (D Wickham 30), Alternatives 258 A Harris 30). *League:* Billy Bluebirds 14, Alternatives 13, Royalists 12, Ex Servicemen 11, Cocoa Nuts 10, Billy Flyers 10, BP Breakaways 8, Witchill Nomads 5, C.U.D. 3, Abercrete 2.

View all results and league tables at *www.barryleagues.co.uk*.

JW

Send your stories and photos to The Gem

Glamorgan Farmers fall foul of a cleptomaniac crow on a visit to Whitchurch

THE monthly meeting for members of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held at the Whitchurch (Cardiff) Golf Club, attracting 30 participants, all attempting to win one of the many prizes – courtesy of the day's sponsor Mr Andrew Thomas of Herbert R Thomas & Co of Cowbridge.

Despite the very wet weather leading up to the event, this very popular parkland course adjacent to the busy A470 was in good condition, providing players the opportunity to return quite reasonable scores.

At the close of play, a better back nine by Martyn Edwards proved crucial when finishing with 33 Stableford points to collect the Herbert R Thomas cup, seeing off the challenge of runner-up Dai Llewellyn, a previous winner of this coveted trophy, who also finished with 33 points.

Dai John, with 29 points, finished third followed by sponsor Andrew Thomas and competition secretary Ray Thomas, who both returned 28

New Cowbridge resident Mike Gardner with 33 points won the visitors' section with Kevin Mortlock finishing runner-up with 31. Robert Calcaterra on this occasion was just an also-ran!

Nearest the pin on the par-3 holes were Bryan Owen, Brian Jones, Ray Thomas and Dr Jon Brazier; and Andrew Thomas hit the longest drive down the selected hole to collect the Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant sponsored longest drive prize.

An interested spectator perched close to the 18th green caused a few problems to Mark Rees, Tim Jarvis and Martyn Edwards who all had the misfortune to see a crow swoop down and fly off with their golf ball firmly in its beak – and accompanied by some unprintable advice. How many of the 27 recorded balls deemed lost suffered a similar fate will never be known.

This number was correctly guessed by Julian Golunski who returned home with the Pickeston Poultry sponsored prize.

Members are now focusing on their Christmas meeting at St Athan Golf Club scheduled for Thursday, December 19 and sponsored by Mr Martyn David of Pickeston Poultry.

T.McC

Promotion means that Cowbridge Cricket Club are looking forward to life in a classy league

YNYSYGERWYN at home is the mouth-watering clash that will launch Cowbridge Cricket Club into the excitement of the South Wales Premier Cricket League.

Last season, the Neath Valley club were runners up in Premier Two and they have a long and distinguished record. Established in 1847, they have been finalists in the Village Cup at Lords twice and won the Dan Radcliffe no fewer than seven times.

The danger man is Yuvraj Odera, who scored 725 runs last season at an average of 45 and took 31 wickets. It will be a fascinating match which will tell us a lot about where Cowbridge might be when the last few matches are deciding promotion and relegation.

If there was a betting market, Ynysygerwyn would be one of the favourites.

The following week the team will travel to Carmarthen before Penarth visit the Athletic Ground for the first time in a generation. Then comes an away game at Ynystawe, another club who have graced the Lords turf in the Village Cup.

Old rivals Clydach are next up followed by Malpas, Chepstow and Gorseinon. Captain Chris Willey will be looking to have created a platform for a challenge to claim the one promotion place as these same opponents make up the second half.

The Second XI begin with a visit to Newbridge Fields where they are sure of warm welcome from Bridgend. The other Clubs in Division Two the Second XI will play are Penarth, Cardiff, Malpas, St Fagans, Newbridge, Newport, Chepstow and Neath. The Second XI will reap a reward for the club's promotion as there are some lovely places to play cricket amongst that list.

Captain Chris Willey commented that should his team win the Ynysygerwyn match, it would put a real marker down. Lose the game and there are still 17 fixtures ahead of them.

JRB

Barry Chess Club latest

EACH of the Barry Chess Clubs teams has played a league match in the past two weeks.

The Camelots in division 2 were on a 100% winning run and took on the North Cardiff Panthers, who themselves were unbeaten with three wins and two draws. Something had to give and it did.

Matthew Davies and Tom Cooke won their games with Dave Parsons adding a draw. This was all we could earn, meaning the match ended in a draw and our record was gone. We remain in second place behind the Panthers but with a match in hand.

In division 3, the Quarks took an unexpected defeat away to the Caerphilly Rooks with Peter Watkins, Martin Ricketts and myself picking up draws. The match ended in a 3.5 - 1.5 win for the home side.

Subsequently the Gambits travelled to Whitchurch to play the Ravens. This time we returned with a big victory, taking wins from Ian Abraham, Peter Watkins and Martin Ricketts. The Ravens defaulted a board giving us a 4–1 win.

The division three league table shows the Gambits in fourth place on 18.5 points and the Quarks in fifth place on 17 points. The gambits are two points off the final promotion spot and the Quarks are four points away from the relegation spot.

If we can maintain these positions in May we will be well satisfied.

In division four the Stauntons did well against the Nelson Phoenixes. Ray Denyer had an excellent draw on board three and a returning Ashton Grey opened his account with a win. We may have lost the match, but 1.5 points is 1.5 more than expected before the match began. The Stauntons remain in ninth.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30pm most Mondays at the West End Club, St, Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but it is better to contact a member through the website first so we can explain what is happening on the night. For more details visit our website at *barrychessclub.yolasite.com*.

PJ

Athletic Youth relish their 'underdog' tag

LEFT: Pencoed Youth are on the attack.

Photograph by Julie Hancock.

BRIDGEND Athletic Youth travelled to Pencoed for an eagerly-awaited clash in the District Cup against a strong team who are top of Division 2, while the Ath are currently second in Division 3 with two games in hand.

It was the underdogs who will go into the second round draw after a deserved and convincing 17–7 victory. The first 10 minutes belonged to Pencoed, who piled on the pressure aided by numerous penalties being awarded against the Ath. However, great defence kept the game scoreless.

The Ath then started to turn the game around and, despite a very wet and sticky pitch, started to attack from all parts of the field. Great handling by backs and forwards saw them attack from deep and take play into the Pencoed 22, where the Ath were awarded a lineout.

Great 'off the top' ball from outstanding second row Morgan Bennett saw scrum half Josh Tidy feed outside half Ethan White who popped the ball to No 8 Michael Gillette.

He charged through the Pencoed midfield, breaking tackles and fed flanker Sion Vigus who charged over for a great try, converted by Ethan White. This spurred the Ath on and they continued to attack from deep. Play went into the Pencoed 22 and the Ath won numerous rucks near the try line. Constant pressure saw hard-working second row Morgan Thomas (who the previous week made a First XV senior debut) drive over the line through three defenders, the conversion narrowly missed by White.

By this time the Ath were dominating possession and territory and the backs scored next. A great inside ball from White saw him feed winger Danny Osarigie just outside the 22. He stepped past the first defender and then powered his way over the line for an outstanding score wide out, the conversion hitting the bar and bouncing backwards, giving the Ath a 17–0 half time lead.

The second half started much the same as the first, with the Ath conceding five penalties in quick succession, resulting in Pencoed driving over the Ath line for a try wide out, superbly converted by their outside half. The rest of the game was a tight affair with the Ath defence, led from the front by captain Jack Obbard and outstanding flanker Ryan Neagle, quite oustanding.

The Ath had chances to increase their lead, but spurned two or three try-scoring opportunities. This was a great marker for the coaches to assess this young Ath team is and the boys can feel justifiably proud of their efforts.

On and Off the Turf with Brian Lee

Connor's Taunton winner

CONNOR Brace chalked up another winner when landing the handicap hurdle race at Taunton last Thursday (December 28) on Fergal O'Brien's *Dan Gun*, which went off the 2-1 favourite and came home two lengths ahead of the top-weighted *Zoltan Varga*.

Earlier in the afternoon, Tim Vaughan's six-year-old *Adherence*, a 7-1 chance burdened with top weight of 11 st.12lb, won the handicap chase by three-and-three quarter lengths from Noel Williams' *Redmond* and was partnered by stable jockey Alan Johns.

At Newbury last Saturday, Ben Jones brought home the bacon in the £142,375 Ladbroke Trophy Chase on Emma Lavelle's *De Rasher Counter*. At Newcastle, Evan Williams' star hurdler *Silver Streak* finished third of five runners behind shock winner Cornerstone and the past two years' winner, the long odds-on, *Buveur D'Air*.

Barry and District Clubs latest rankings and league tables

THE results for the Barry and District Clubs are as follows:

Crib Division 1: Cadoxton Cons 7, West End 8; Liberals 11, Rhoose Social 4; Romilly Railway 7, Moors Boys 8.

League: Romilly Railway 85, Liberals 82, Rhoose Social 79, West End 78, Cadoxton Cons 73, Moors Boys 73, Wyndham Cons 70.

Skittles Division 1: Slammers 1, Sea View Exiles 6; Liberals A 7, Rhoosters 0; Rhoose Social B 1, Allsorts 6; Rugby Club 5, King William XII 2; West End D 3, Rhoose Social C 4; Rhoose Social A 4.5, Liberals C 2.5; Cambrian Flyers 3, Barry Town FC 4.

League: Sea View Exiles 57.0, West End D 54.5, Rugby Club 45.5, Rhoose Social A 45.0, Rhoose Social C 45.0, Barry Town FC 42.5, King William XII 42.0, Liberals C 38.5, Allsorts 38.0, Slammers 31.0, Barries Boys 30.5, Rhoosters 30.5, West End C 30.0, Rhoose Social B 26.5, Cambrian Flyers 24.0, Liberals A 21.5.

Snooker Division 1: Penarth Cons B 0, Harbour B 5; Penarth Cons A 5, Rhoose Social B 0; Savoy B 1, West End C 4; Liberators 2, Wyndham Cons A 3; Cadoxton Cons Z 1, Cadoxton Cons B 4.

League: West End C 41, Harbour B 39, Savoy B 33, Penarth Cons A 30, Cadoxton Cons Z 27, Wyndham Cons A 27, Cadoxton Cons B 26, Rhoose Social C 16, Penarth Cons B 15, Rhoose Social B 15. *Liberators 6.

Snooker Division 2: Cadoxton Cons A 3, Market Street B 2; West End A 3, Sully Sports A 2; Wyndham Cons D 3, Market Street A 2; West End B 4, Services Social B 1.

League: Market Street C 32, Market Street A 31, Savoy C 29, Harbour A 27, Services Social B 27, West End A 26, Wyndham Cons D 26, Cadoxton Cons A 24, Market Street B 24, West End B 22, Sully Sports A 17.

* = Points deducted.

View all results and league tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

Vale of Glamorgan Football League round up

THE form book was torn up and thrown out the window in the Vale Premier Division this weekend with some eyebrow raising results.

Cadoxton Imps' aspirations to retake top spot were put on hold as they were held by third place St Athan in Wenvoe. Imps came from two down to salvage a point in a thrilling contest, where both teams had chances to win it at the end.

Penarth Town took the reigning champions Barry Athletic apart 7-1 in a surprise result at Cwrt Y Vil to romp to their second league win of the campaign, with David Shallis scoring five of the goals.

Cowbridge Town finally picked up their first win of the season as they comprehensively defeated Cogan Coronation 4-1 away at the Rec. Ben Boyd, Chris Richards and a brace from Lloyd Lewis lifted Town off the foot of the table.

In Division One, it's 'whatever you can do we can do too' from the top three. League leaders AFC Rhoose B sent out a big statement against bottom side SP Billy as they romped to a huge away victory, doubles from Kyle Cates and Sean Nash contributing to the victory along with other scorers.

Cadoxton Barry put Holton Road B to the sword at Bryn y Don. Goals from Drew Burniston and two each from David Evans and Arturs Zomeroskis handed the home side the win in their first game in two months. Barry Vikings also continued their good run as they saw off St Athan B 6-2 at Wenvoe. Rhoose B still sit six points clear of Cadoxton Barry and seven ahead of Vikings, but both sides still have two games in hand.

Island Marine B are back to winning ways as goals from Nathan Tucker and Jack Blackmore gave the home side a 3-1 victory in the Island derby over Barry Athletic B, to somewhat avenge the defeat a few weeks ago. The win keeps Island Marine B in fourth place.

Finally, Vale United edged Cwm Talwg 1-0 to get their first win in four league games, with Gareth Bevan grabbing the only goal in Corntown.

HD

Local Lifeguards represent Wales at Commonwealth Championships

FOUR local lifeguards recently competed for Wales at the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships, an event which this year took place in Leeds.

Jason Grice (Rhoose Lifeguards), Reuben Hopkin, Declan Ewington and Emily Parker (all from Vale Surf Life Saving Club) were part of a 20-strong Team Wales. They competed in the pool against teams from 12 countries including Australia, South Africa, Canada, Hong Kong, England and Scotland and came a creditable sixth place overall.

Assistant team manager Simon Parker said: "The team put in great performances and most delivered personal or season best performances. They all competed with a great team spirit and did Wales and their clubs proud."

Some members of the team are already training for the next Commonwealth Championships, due to be held in Windsor, Canada in September 2021.

Table tennis and quizzing for Llantwit Boys' Brigade

THREE members of 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade travelled to Southampton on Saturday to play table tennis.

Although fourth (Southampton were the victors), Gabe, Mason and Thomas should be congratulated as they tried their best but were sadly outclassed. Southampton have made the national finals and play a lot of table tennis! The boys had a wonderful afternoon and are all now looking forward to the competition next year.

Next Saturday four members will travel to Tewkesbury for the second round of the Masterteam (quiz) competition. Good luck to Morgan, Luke, Gabe and Ciaran.

In the chess competition, 2nd Llantwit Major are waiting to find out their next opponent: either Newport Pagnell or Bloxham.

If anyone would like any further information about Boys' Brigade in Llantwit Major, please contact Debbie on (01446) 796208.

DC

Latest local bridge club results

RESULTS for Barrivale Bridge club on November 26:

First, Peter Millar and Tim Barsby 60%; second, Mark Roderick and Simon Richards 59.58%; third, Mike Close and Mick Green 59.17%. The handicap winners were Alan Rees and Ann Richards.

New members are welcomed and a partner can be arranged. If you would like to join us, call: 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry at 7pm on Tuesday evening. Classes and assisted play at the Pioneer Hall Fridays from 10am–12.30pm, Thursdays from 1.30pm–4pm at Barry Uniting Church, Heol y Llongau, Barry CF634AP (the waterfront).

Penllyn Bridge Club: November 7, 22 pairs: first, Judith and Colin Nunn 63.41%; second, Eric and Ann Sparks 62.27%; third, Myrtle Hansard and Diana Lewis 60.91%.

November 14, 19 pairs: first, John Lord and Jo Ilsley 68.47%; second, David and Marion Stephenson 60.31%; third, Judith and Colin Nunn 59.69%.

November 21, 19 pairs: first, David and Marion Stephenson 66.48%; joint second, Allan Evans and Keith Price and Helen and Mike Ruttley 62.5%. November 28, 16 pairs Robert Brown Cup competition: first, Judith and Colin Nunn 75.32%; second, Eric and Ann Sparks 66.23%; third, Helen and Mike Ruttley 56.82%.

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club: December 2: First, Tony Disley and Phil Felman 67.90%; second, John Evans and Steve Burgoyne 64.77%; third, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones 62.50%.

Bridgend Bridge Club latest news

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are:

The Club Mixed Pairs Championship was completed on November 29: First, Linda Pinnock and Steve Burgoyne; second, Debbie and Simon Richards; third, Debbie and Dave Lea.

On November 27: First, Emer Disley and Debbie Lea; second, David Bowen and David Crompton; third, Tony Disley and John Evans. The winners on handicap were Emer Disley and Debbie Lea.

On November 28, playing North-South: First, Stuart Davies and Dilys Bowser; second, Geoff and Christine Tinkler; third, Frances Heslin and Dee Finch.

Playing East-West: First, Linda Jenkins and Paul Lyne; second, Steve Burgoyne and Joan Ralph; third, Richard and Maggie Ashpole.

Regular club nights take place at 7pm on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. On Thursdays at 2pm, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding.

All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome. For more information, contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or email *steve@steveburgoyne.plus.com*.

GJ

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16 66 MERCEDES C43 4Matic Premium 2dr Coupe Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 22k,

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15 65 BMW 430 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Gran Coupe Automatic, m sport plus pack, sat nav, blue, full leather

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16 16 NISSAN NAVARA 2.3 DCI 190 Acenta Double Cab Pickup Automatic 4WD, privacy glass, 33k,

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18 68 MERCEDES GLC220 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof,

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14 64 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER 3.0 TDV6 Autobiography 5dr Automatic, pan roof, TV, sat nav, reverse

£36995 NO BUYERS FEES

13 63 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Pure 5dr 4WD, pan roof, tech pack, sat nav, white,

£14495 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 MultiJet 200 Night Eagle 5dr Automatic 4WD, sat nav, cruise, 19k, choice,

£15495 NO BUYERS FEES

18 68 PORSCHE MACAN 2.0 T 4WD 5dr PDK, pan roof, 21"turbo alloys, BOSE, comfort memory pack,

£48995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI 180 ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 20k,

£17495 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 HSE DYNAMIC 5dr Automatic, sat nav, 24K, met grey,

£24995 NO BUYERS FEES

15 65 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, carbon

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16 16 AUDI Q7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 5dr Tiptronic Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, 31k, white, half-leather.....**£30995**

16 66 BMW 225 1.5 XE Sport Active Tourer 5dr Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, 22k, white, full leather **£17995**

18 68 BMW 225 Active Tourer XE M Sport Premium 5dr Automatic, BMW Warranty until November 2021, pan roof, sat nav, white, full leather **£21995**

17 67 BMW 330 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2020, pro media - sat nav, m sport + pack, head up display, 14k, met grey, full oyster leather.....**£21995**

15 65 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, through load, 38k, silver, full leather.....**£17495**

16 16 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic (310bhp), 19"alloys, sat nav, privacy glass, 30k, grey, full leather.....**£18995**

16 66 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, 19"alloys, sat nav, 29k, alpine white, full leather.....**£19795**

16 66 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, sat nav, 18"alloys, 30k, grey, full leather **£18995**

15 65 BMW 420 DXDrive Luxury 2dr Coupe Automatic, 19"alloys, sat nav, heated seats, 39k, grey, full leather **£15995**

15 65 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport Coupe Automatic, sat nav, 16k, blue, full leather.....**£17995**

16 66 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport Gran Coupe Automatic, m sport plus pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, electric glass sunroof, blue, full leather **£19995**

17 17 BMW 420 I XDrive Sport Gran Coupe 5dr Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 25k, grey, full leather.....**£18495**

15 65 BMW 430 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Gran Coupe Automatic, m sport plus pack, sat nav, blue, full leather **£14995**

17 67 BMW 520 D XDrive SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£18995**

15 65 BMW X1 2.0 D XDrive X-Line 5dr Automatic (190bhp), sat nav, 18"alloys, 32k, bronze, full leather.....**£16995**

16 16 BMW X1 XDrive 25d M Sport 5dr Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, pdc, 19k, blue, full leather.....**£19995**

15 65 BMW X3 2.0 D XDrive X-Line 5dr automatic, head up display, reverse camera, sat nav, blue, full leather **£16495**

16 16 BMW X3 2.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, 19"alloys, black, full leather **£18795**

15 15 BMW X4 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic, 20"Alloys, head up display, reverse camera, 20k, white, full leather **£22495**

15 65 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, carbon black, full leather **£26995**

16 66 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, m sport plus pack, 30k, grey, full leather **£29995**

17 67 FORD EDGE 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium 5dr 4WD, Ford warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 5k, choice.....**£20795**

15 15 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium X Sport 5dr Powershift 4WD, pan roof, bodykit, 31k, white, full leather **£13795**

17 67 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI 180 ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 20k, silver.....**£17495**

16 16 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRD BlueDrive Premium 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty July 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 31k, white, full leather **£16995**

19 19 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Premium 5dr Automatic 4WD (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty April 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 11k, silver, full leather **£29995**

16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0 CRD Premium 4WD 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 18k, grey, full leather.....**£16495**

16 66 INFINITI Q30 2.2D Premium Tech 5dr DCT automatic 4WD, panoramic roof, 18"alloys, 19k, grey, full leather **£15995**

18 68 JAGUAR F-PACE 2.0 D R-Sport 5dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 7k, black, full leather **£30495**

17 67 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 MultiJet Limited 5dr 4WD, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 13k, grey, full leather **£16495**

16 66 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 MultiJet 200 Night Eagle 5dr Automatic 4WD, sat nav, cruise, 19k, choice, full leather.....**£15495**

16 16 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 CRD MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 41k, met grey, full leather **£14995**

16 66 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 M-Jet 200 Limited 5dr Automatic 4WD, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 23k, blue, full leather **£15995**

17 67 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr Automatic, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 26k, black **£16995**

18 18 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 CRD MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr 4WD Automatic, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, 12k, choice, full leather **£17495**

15 15 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 M-Jet Opening Edition 5dr 4WD, sat nav, 31k, orange, full leather **£11495**

16 66 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 MultiJet Limited 5dr Automatic 4WD, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£9495**

15 65 KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRD KX3 5dr Automatic AWD (7-Seater), Kia warranty Dec 2022, pan roof, reverse camera, 21k, white, full leather **£18995**

18 18 KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRDI KX-3 5dr (7-Seater), KIA warranty June 2025, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 8k, black, full leather **£25995**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T-GDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Nov 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, choice, full leather **£14495**

18 68 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6T GDI ISG 4 5dr DCT Automatic 4WD, KIA Warranty until October 2025, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 9k, blue, full leather **£22495**

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-3 5dr (Facelift), Kia warranty June 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 41k,met blue, full leather **£13495**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-3 5dr (Facelift), sat nav, grey, full leather **£13995**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-4 5dr Automatic, Kia warranty Sept 2023, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, white, full leather **£14495**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI First Edition 5dr Automatic 4WD, Kia warranty Sept 2023, sat nav, sunroof, 24k, white, full leather **£17495**

17 17 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-4 AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, reverse camera, choice, full leather **£14495**

18 18 LAMBORGHINI HURACAN LP640-4 Performante LDF 4WD 2dr lift system, Lamborghini warranty May 2022, 20"black alloys, rear view camera with pdc, green brake callipers.....**£179995**

16 16 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 HSE Black 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, adaptive cruise, blue, full leather.....**£23495**

14 64 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER 3.0 TDV6 Autobiography 5dr Automatic, pan roof, TV, sat nav, reverse camera, white, full leather **£36995**

13 63 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Pure 5dr, pan roof, tech pack, sat nav, white, full leather **£14495**

14 64 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Pure 5dr 4WD, 18"alloys, heated seats, grey, full leather **£15495**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 SE Tech 5dr Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, 18"alloys, 21k, blue, full leather **£22495**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 HSE DYNAMIC 5dr Automatic, sat nav, 24K, met grey, full leather **£24995**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 SE TECH 3dr Automatic, sat nav, black, full leather.....**£20995**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 SE Tech 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 32k, choice, full leather **£19495**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 Autobiography 5dr Automatic, sat nav, pan roof, 20"alloys, reverse camera, grey, full leather.....**£26995**

17 17 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SPORT 5.0 V8 Autobiography Dynamic 5dr Automatic, Land Rover warranty June 2020, stealth pack, sat nav, pan roof, privacy glass, 9k, white, full leather**£53995**

16 66 MERCEDES C43 4Matic Premium 2dr Coupe Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 22k, white, half-leather..... .....**£29995**

18 18 MERCEDES E350 D 4Matic AMG Line Premium Plus 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty July 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, 9k, blue, half-leather.....**£30995**

16 66 MERCEDES GLC220d 4Matic Sport Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, grey, full leather **£21995**

18 68 MERCEDES GLC220 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, night pack, 20"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, 4k, choice.....**£28995**

16 66 MINI PACEMAN 1.6 ALL4 3dr Automatic, media pack – sat nav, pepper pack, tlc pack, 7k, silver, half-leather **£12495**

14 64 MINI PACEMAN 2.0 SD All 4 3dr, chilli+tlc pack, 18"alloys, 42k, met blue, full leather.....**£9495**

13 63 MITSUBISHI ASX1.8 4 5dr 4WD, pan roof, sat nav, 44k, black, full leather **£7995**

16 16 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI N-Connecta 5dr 4WD, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 31k, met red **£11795**

16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr 4wd (7-Seater), pan roof, 26k, grey **£13495**

18 68 PORSCHE MACAN 2.0 T 4WD 5dr PDK, pan roof, 21"turbo alloys, BOSE, comfort memory pack, heated seats, LED lights, huge spec, in black with full Mojave beige leather **£48995**

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI R 5dr DSG Automatic 4WD, sat nav, heated seats, 19"alloys, 25k, black.....**£20995**

16 66 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI 150 4Motion SE Nav 5dr (Facelift), sat nav, cruise, black.....**£14995**

16 66 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi 150 4Motion R Line 5dr, pan roof, heated seats, 20"alloys, 32k, grey **£20995**

18 68 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr Automatic AWD, Volvo warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, 19"alloys, 13k, met red, half-leather **£27495**

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17 67 ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.4 TB 5dr, Alfa warranty Oct 2020, air-con, 17"alloys, dab, 8k, white **£10995**

17 66 ALFA ROMEO MITO 0.9 TB TwinAir 3dr, Alfa warranty Feb 2020, air-con, Bluetooth, dab, 7k, red **£7995**

16 66 AUDI A1 1.6 TDI SE 5dr, dab, privacy glass, red, full leather **£8995**

14 14 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI Sport 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, pdc, 38k, red **£9495**

18 18 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI 116 Sport 4dr Automatic, Audi warranty April 2021, sat nav, heated seats, black **£15295**

16 16 AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TDI S-Line Estate, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, 33k, grey **£15495**

17 67 AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TDI Ultra 190 S-Line Estate S-Tronic Automatic, Audi warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, heated seats, 19k, red, half-leather **£19795**

18 67 AUDI A5 2.0 TDI Ultra Sport 5dr, Audi warranty March 2021, sat nav, black alloys, heated seats, blue, full leather **£19995**

15 65 BMW 118 D Sport 5dr, sat nav, driver comfort pack, pdc, 41k, silver, full red leather **£10495**

16 66 BMW 118 D Sport 5dr, sat nav, 17"alloys, comfort pack, 30k, black **£11495**

16 16 BMW 318 D M Sport 4dr, heated seats, 19"alloys, sat nav, 30k, grey, full leather **£14995**

15 15 BMW 320d EfficientDynamics Business 4dr, sat nav, 18" m sport alloys, grey, full leather **£9995**

15 65 BMW 320 2.0 D M Sport Gran Turismo 5dr Automatic, pro media, pan roof, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, 26k, black **£17995**

17 67 BMW 320 D M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, harman kardon, heated seats, blue, full leather **£16495**

16 66 BMW 330e M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, M sport plus pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, 28k, estoril blue, full leather **£19995**

15 15 BMW 420 D SE 190 2dr Coupe Automatic, sat nav, 18"m sport alloys, black, full leather **£12995**

17 67 BMW 420d [190] M Sport 5dr Gran Coupe Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, 19"alloys, pro media, m sport + pack, Harman kardon, choice, full leather **£19495**

15 65 BMW 520 D [190] SE Estate Automatic, sat nav, privacy glass, white, full oyster leather **£13995**

16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, pro media, 19"alloys, m sport plus pack, 26k, choice, full leather, from **£15995**

16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£14995**

16 66 BMW 520 2.0 D M Sport Gran Turismo 5dr Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, 27k, carbon black, full leather **£19995**

17 66 BMW i3 94AH with Range Extender 5dr, BMW warranty Jan 2020, pro media – sat nav, 19"alloys, 16k, blue, full leather **£20995**

16 66 BMW X1 2.0 SDrive D M Sport 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather **£13995**

17 17 CITROEN C4 CACTUS 1.2 PureTech Flair 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 15k, silver **£8795**

18 68 DACIA SANDERO STEPWAY 0.9 TCE Comfort 5dr, Dacia warranty Nov 2021, sat nav, air-con, 6k, white **£8295**

17 17 DS DS3 1.6 BlueHDI Prestige 3dr, DS warranty April 2020, sat nav, cruise, 17"alloys, yellow **£7995**

15 65 FIAT 500 1.2 Cult 3dr, pan roof, 23k, green, full leather £5995

15 65 FIAT 500X 1.4 M-Air Lounge 5dr, sat nav, privacy glass, 23k, grey, half-leather **£8995**

17 17 FIAT 500X 1.6 E-Torq Pop Star 5dr, sat nav, bluetooth, cruise, 16k, black **£9495**

13 13 FORD FIESTA 1.6 Zetec 5dr Powershift Automatic, city pack, alloys, white **£4995**

16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 140 ST-Line Navigation 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2020, sat nav, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, dab, 7k, black **£10495**

19 69 FORD FOCUS 1.5 EcoBoost 182 ST-Line X 5dr, Ford warranty Oct 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, only 311 miles in white, half-leather **£20995**

16 66 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Titanium X Navigation 5dr Powershift Automatic, Ford warranty Jan 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 24k, orange **£11995**

17 17 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI 120 Zetec Edition 5dr, Ford warranty Aril 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, choice **£8495**

17 17 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI 120 ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty July 2020, sat nav, dab, Bluetooth, usb, 16k, silver **£11495**

14 14 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI 115 Navigator 5dr, appearance pack, sat nav, privacy glass, red **£6795**

15 15 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI 150 Titanium 5dr, appearance pack, 17"alloys, 29k, red, half-leather **£9995**

16 16 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI Titanium Sport 5dr Automatic, (7 seater) pan roof, sat nav, 18k, silver **£17995**

17 17 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI Eco Zetec Estate, sat nav, cruise, choice **£9495**

16 16 HYUNDAI i30 1.6 CRDI BlueDrive Premium 5dr, Hyundai warranty June 2021, sat nav, 27k, choice, full leather **£9295**

18 18 HYUNDAI i30 1.6 CRDI 136 Premium SE Estate DCT Automatic, Hyundai warranty June 2023, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 18k, beige, full leather **£14495**

19 69 HYUNDAI KONA 1.6 150kw GDI Hybrid Premium SE 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Oct 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, only 464 miles in orange **£22995**

16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRDI BlueDrive Premium 5dr DCT Automatic, Hyundai warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, met grey, full leather **£14495**

16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRD BlueDrive SE Nav 5dr, Hyundai warranty March 2022, sat nav, heated seats, reverse camera, 28k, black **£12495**

17 67 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.6 GDI Blue Drive S 5dr, Hyundai warranty Dec 2022, air-con, Bluetooth, dab, 10k, blue **£12495**

16 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D R-Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, 36k, white, full leather **£16995**

18 18 JEEP COMPASS 1.4 Multiair 140 Limited 5dr, Jeep warranty April 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 12k, silver, full leather **£18495**

17 67 JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 Multijet Night Eagle II 5dr, Jeep warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, privacy glass, cruise, 29k, white **£12495**

18 68 KIA CEED 1.4 T GDI ISG Blue Edition 5dr, Kia warranty Dec 2025, sat nav, reverse camera, 8k, blue **£15795**

16 66 KIA NIRO 1.6 GDI Hybrid 2 5dr DCT Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 28k, choice **£15995**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 GDI 1 5dr, (Facelift) Kia warranty Oct 2023, Bluetooth, cruise, 28k, white **£10495**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRD ISG 2 5dr, Kia warranty Feb 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 25k, choice **£11995**

18 18 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI ISG 2 Estate, Kia warranty May 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 18k, black **£12495**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 ED4 SE 5dr, heated seats, 18"alloys, 37k, blue, full leather **£18995**

13 13 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 ED4 Pure 5dr, sat nav, tech pack, pan roof, grey **£12495**

17 17 LEXUS IS300h 2.5 Executive Edition 4dr Automatic, Lexus warranty April 2020, sat nav, 18k, silver, full leather **£18495**

17 67 LEXUS IS300h Advance 4dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 17"alloys, cruise, grey, full leather **£17495**

18 68 MAZDA 3 2.2 D SPORT Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, headup display, reverse camera, black, full leather **£14995**

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18 18 MERCEDES C220 D AMG Line 2dr Coupe Automatic, Mercedes Benz warranty until July 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 10k, silver, full leather **£23995**

15 65 MERCEDES C350e Sport Premium Plus 4dr Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 41k, silver, full leather **£17995**

16 66 MERCEDES CLA180 Sport 4dr, cruise, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, 15k, silver **£16795**

16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 D AMG Line 4dr Coupe, cruise, Bluetooth, 19k, white **£18495**

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, xenons, 6k, choice **£21495**

17 67 MERCEDES E220d AMG Line 2dr Convertible 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, heated seats, air scarf, 26k, choice, full leather **£21995**

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 19"alloys, choice, half-leather **£22995**

16 66 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr, Mini warranty Dec 2019, air-con, Bluetooth, aux, usb, 25k, white **£8795**

16 66 MINI COOPER 1.5 5dr, chilli pack, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, air-con, aux, usb, choice, 27k **£9795**

18 68 MINI COOPER 2.0 S II 5dr, Mini warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, apple car play, privacy glass, 20k, black **£13995**

16 16 MINI CLUBMAN 1.5 6dr Estate, sat nav, chilli + tlc pack, 33k, black, half-leather **£10795**

16 66 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0 D 6dr, sat nav, heated seats, blue, half-leather **£11495**

18 18 MINI COOPER 2.0 S 5dr (190bhp), sat nav, apple carplay, privacy glass, 8k, choice **£13795**

17 67 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 S 5dr (189bhp), Mini warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 18"alloys, 11k, white, half-leather **£18995**

16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI N-CONNECTA 5 D, sat nav, reverse camera, choice **£7995**

14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, met red, full leather **£9495**

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Connecta 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, choice **£10495**

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI 130 N-Connecta 5dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, blue **£11495**

17 67 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr Xtronic Automaic (7-Seater), Nissan warranty Oct 2020, pan roof, cruise, 9k, blue **£14995**

17 17 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DIG-T N-Vision 5dr (7-Seater), sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 24k, choice **£12495**

16 66 PEUGEOT 108 1.0 Active 5dr, air-con, cruise, aux, 32k, choice **£4995**

18 18 PEUGEOT 308 1.2 Pure Tech 130 GT Line 5dr, Peugeot warranty May 2021, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 22k, blue **£10995**

12 12 PEUGEOT 3008 1.6 THP Exclusive 5dr, 53k, black **£4995**

17 17 PEUGEOT 3008 2.0 BlueHDI 150 GT-Line 5dr, Peugeot warranty June 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 30k, blue **£16995**

18 67 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Feb 2022, sat nav, cruise, 17"alloys, 9k, grey **£10495**

17 17 RENAULT CLIO 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S Nav 5dr (facelift), Renault warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 17"alloys, 11k, blue **£8995**

15 65 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Dynamique S Nav 5dr, sat nav, 19"alloys, pdc, choice **£9295**

17 67 MERCEDES CLA220 D AMG Line 5dr Estate Tip Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, privacy glass, cruise, red, half-leather

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17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty July 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 19"alloys, 29k, choice

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13 13 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 I Jam 3dr, urban pack, Bluetooth, dab, cruise, 39k, blue

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16 16 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI N-Tec 5dr (7-Seater), sat nav, Bluetooth, silver

£11995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 68 MERCEDES A180 D AMG Line 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, 15k, white, half-leather

£19995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 FORD MONDEO 1.5 TDCI Econetic Zetec 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, black

£8995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 13k, grey, half-leather

£21795 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 ABARTH 595 1.4 T-Jet 165 Turismo 3dr, Bluetooth, dab, 17k, red, full leather

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14 14 JAGUAR F-TYPE 3.0 Supercharged V6 S 2dr Coupe Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 23k, white, full leather

£27995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi 150 R Line 5dr, pan roof, 20"alloys, sat nav, grey

£16995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, alloys, usb, dab, 23k, choice

£5995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 MERCEDES A200 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty March 2021, sat nav, usb, reverse camera, 16k, silver

£15995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 MERCEDES C300 AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 7k, silver, half-leather

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64 **VW POLO 1.4 TDi SE 5dr** in white, 59,000 miles, fantastic MPG **£6,495**
63 **VW POLO 1.2 MATCH 5de** in red, 41,000 miles, alloys, A/C etc.....**£6,495**
15 **HYUNDAI i10 Premium 5dr** in met blue, 9,000 miles, 1 owner.....**£6,495**
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60 **HYUNDAI i10 COMFORT 1.2 5dr** in met blue, 42,000 miles low insurance **£2,995**
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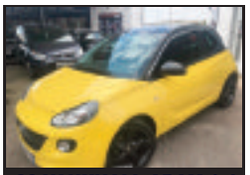

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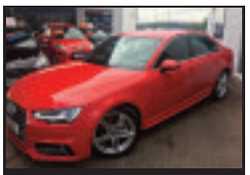

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After last year, the only way is up for Sully Sports RFC

Former Wales international Aled Brew recently put on a guest training session at Sully Sports RFC.

WHEN you're labelled the worst rugby team in Wales and the WRU throw you out of its league structure ,you know it's time for a change.

Sully Sports RFC, who play in Division 3C south east, reached rock bottom at the end of last season, losing its last game by over 100 points, and the club knew its future depended on making a change.

Over the summer they held talks with former international referee Dave Bodilly, who had recently moved into the area about becoming the new head head coach.

Once agreed, Bodilly got to work on re organising the club and so far this season, results are encouraging, putting the club in mid table.

Dave told The GEM: "After last season, players weren't exactly banging on the door for pre-season, so we had to build from scratch.

"After we won our appeal to stay within the WRU league structure it was imperative we fulfilled every fixture, so we had to make training organised, structured and fun. Numbers have improved as the season has developed, and now we are getting 15-25 players training. "We have recruited Mike Bishop as our forwards coach. I knew Mike when he played Premiership rugby for Glamorgan Wanderers. He was a outstanding hooker and very astute both on and off the pitch."

As well as the players, club's the committee have also rolled up their sleeves, backing Bodilly at every level and supporting the players both on and off the pitch.

Dave continued: "We looked a pub team, so we managed to get a couple of sponsors, which enabled us to buy warming up jackets, new kit and post match shirts.

"The players now feel part of a club, feel part of something. We still have a long way to go, but we are miles from where we were."

Last week, Bodilly arranged for former Wales international and current Bath player Aled Brew to come along and do a training session.

Dave said: "Despite the weather conditions, Aled turned up and gave a great session, which the players thoroughly enjoyed. I am planning more guest coaches; it's great for the players to hear a different voice and new ideas"

Sully are currently mid table ,having played all but one of the top sides of the league. Bodilly added: "We have become very competitive, and we continue to improve. We have developed cover in most positions, but we still welcome new players each week. We are also keen to reach out to the community, so we need players, volunteers and sponsors, without whom we can't run the rugby club."

So, here at The GEM, we are not going to pass up the chance to ask an obvious question.

Given Dave's career as a referee, do his players understand all the rules and go through a game squeaky clean with a zero penalty count against them?

He said: "Well, I think we have made progress in that area, but we do still get penalties against us."

And does the head coach stand quietly on the sidelines if he disagrees with the ref's interpretation?

"Well, I do lose my temper sometimes at some calls against us, but I always make a point of having a drink with the referee and discussing the game afterwards. I understand how difficult it can be."

Sully's next fixture is home to Whitchurch RFC on December 7, kick off 2.30pm

Report by Philip Irwin

New book is a must for point to point fans

VALE hunt-racing enthusiasts will want to avail themselves of the Big Green Annual Point-To-Point Racing Calendar 2020.

All the proceeds of this well illustrated calendar, which also carries a full fixture list, will be going to Cancer Research UK.

There are quite a number of small photographs, as well as the 12 monthly big pictures and included in these are Isabel Williams, Jack Tudor, Byron Moorcroft, James Bowen, Jodie Hughes and Ben Jones, who are all no strangers to readers of the GEM's On And Off The Turf column.

At just £14 including postage and packing, it can be obtained from John Beasley, 30 Thistlebarrow Road, Bournemouth, BH7 7AL or phone 01202 309489, e-mail *john@johnbeasleypix.co.uk* or see *www.johnbeasleypix.co.uk*

Meanwhile, Vale trainers Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan both saddled winners last Thursday (November 28) but at two different meetings.

Evan's course winner *Golden Whisky* landed the handicap chase under stable jockey Adam Wedge at Ffos Las and Tim Vaughan's *Adherence* took the handicap chase at Taunton with Alan Johns in the saddle.

Heavy ground specialist *Golden Whisky* had two-and-a-half lengths to spare over Sam Drinkwater's *Some Can Dance* and the top weighted *Adherence* scored by three-and-three quarter lengths from Noel Williams's *Redmond*. *Golden Whisky* was returned the 4-6 favourite and *Adherence* was a 7-1 chance.

At Ffos Las, the National Hunt Flat race went to Sam Thomas's *Mario De Pail*, ridden by Carmarthen's Ben Jones, who 24 hours earlier had won the handicap hurdle at Hereford on Emma Lavelle's *Pemberley*.

Also in good form at Ffos Las was Sean Bowen, who was successful on *Air Horse One* and the Rebecca Curtis trained *Special Princess*.

Connor Brace, who like Ben Jones has had a cracking season, riding the Fergal O'Brien trained *Dan Gun,* won the handicap hurdle by two lengths from *Zoltan Varga.*

Brian Lee

The Mules and the Generals – an unusual rugby scoreline

KENFIG Hills had worked hard all morning on November 23 to get the pitch playable for the WRU Conference Central derby between Kenfig Hill Second XV and Bridgend Athletic Generals in the WRU conference.

Bridgend Ath elected to play uphill first half, with the emphasis on a shutout and use of the slope to their advantage in the second half. Due to shortage of available backs in the club this weekend yet again, the Generals were forced to reshuffle.

The Ath General forwards, directed by stand in scrum half Josh Seldon, were getting through a fair amount of work trying to break the gain line. They had some success through the contribution of returning hooker Lewis Down, well supported by fellow front row Morgan Clemett and Lewis Dando. Unfortunately, handling errors allowed Kenfig Hill to turn the ball over and clear their lines.

Cameron Lewis was directing the backs from outside half. Locks Matthew Tellem and Aled Pilliner carried strongly from the rucks. Harry Harries and Ellis James in the back row worked hard alongside captain Aaron Mordecai, who again stood out with his work at the base of the scrum against a strong Kenfig Hill pack.

The last quarter of the half saw the Athletic pinned inside their 22 with Kenfig driving line outs and scrum advantage setting up wave after wave of attacks. Mordecai picked up from a retreating scrum behind his own try line, allowing Liam Phillips to clear to touch.

A strong Athletic tackle on the touchline was not very well received by the Kenfig Hill backroom staff and spectators, which resulted in several people entering the field and spectators and being dismissed from the playing area. The Athletic managed to hold out a strong scrum from Kenfig on their try line and were relieved to hear the halftime whistle.

It was now the Athletics' turn to use the slope, kicking to the bottom corner and pressuring the home line out.

The second half plan was put in place with an emphasis on playing to the corners and pressuring Kenfig into errors. The forwards were freshened up with the introduction of Geraint Lang and Ellis Bull who both got stuck in from the off.

The Athletics' constant kicking to the corner and putting Kenfig under constant pressure. However, they survived and the game ended in a 0–0 scoreline.

A sad evening for the Cowbridge Darts League

NOVEMBER 26 was a very sad evening for the Cowbridge Darts League.

That evening, Trish Kinman, a player with the Edmondes A, took ill suddenly and passed away. Trish was not only a player, but she has been the league treasurer for many years.

Results from that evening are as follows: The Victoria Inn beat the Farmers Arms 17-7, the Highwayman Inn beat the Edmondes C 16-6 and the Edmondes B beat the Red Lion Inn 16-4.

The match between the Town Hall Criers and the Edmondes A was abandoned and the Hairy Farmers had a bye. In the match between the Edmondes B and the Red Lion, Martin Thomas (Edmondes B) hit a 180.

Present league standings after seven weeks are: Edmondes B (88 points), Highwayman Inn (79), Victoria Inn (74), Farmers Arms (64), Edmondes C (57), Hairy Farmers (55), Edmondes A (53), Town Hall Criers (50) and the Red Lion Inn (46).

Next Tuesday, December 10, a full set of league matches is scheduled. The Edmondes A hosts the Edmondes B, the Farmers Arms hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Victoria Inn hosts the Town Hall Criers, the Edmondes C hosts the Hairy Farmers. The Red Lion Inn have a bye.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at *cowbridgedarts@gmail.com*, up-to-date information can be found at *www.darts.apsn.co.uk*.

PJT

Back to rugby action for Barry and Cowbridge

FOLLOWING a break for Wales against the Barbarians, Cowbridge RFC are back in action this Saturday.

Following close defeats in the last two fixtures against Aberdare and Treharris, the boys will be keen to get back to winning ways at home against Abercwmboi. Abercwmboi are currently two places below and six points behind.

The following Saturday we are again at home against bottom of the table Caerphilly, who we defeated 3-42 away in the first game of the season. There is then a break until Llanishen away on December 28.

RV/RK

BARRY RFC travel to Ynysybwl, hoping to get back to winning ways after a hard November where they met the top three in the table.

A coach will leave the club at 12.30pm for players and supporters for the 2.30pm kick off. The Club Lottery rolls over to £5,800 this week after last week's numbers 02-16-20 and 24 failed to produce a winner.

AJ

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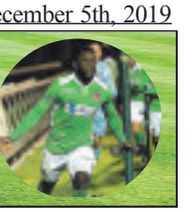

Pivac avoids the pitfalls in an encouraging debut

Wales v Barbarians report by Philip Irwin

WAYNE Pivac has had a long wait since being appointed heir apparent to Warren Gatland, and it must have been frustrating for him.

Therefore, this win for Wales over the Barbarians must have left him encourged. The 43–33 scoreline flattered the Baa Baas. At 40–19 with 20 minutes to go, Wales had a chance to make it look like a drubbing, but when both sides emptied their benches, the game became untidy and the old hands in the Baa Baas cashed in.

In the end, Leigh Halfpenny was booed by (some of) the crowd when Wales decided, with three minutes to go, to make the margin a safe 10 instead of a nervy seven by kicking a penalty.

When Pivac was appointed he had three problems to deal with, and none of these was going to go away after one game.

Here they are (as they say on Strictly) in no particular order.

1. Wales' traditional lack of depth. There's not a lot that the coach can do about this. It's down to the development system but it is a worry that the Welsh regions have not exactly lit up the season so far. For instance, at outside half Jarrod Evans was a big plus, but Sam Davies didn't match him when he came on.

2. What you might call the David Moyes problem. Taking over from a long-serving and successful coach, as Moyes did at Manchester Utd, is a problem in most sports. Social media has encouraged a collective lack of patience in fan groups and there isn't much of a honeymoon period.

3. Problem three is very much of Wayne's own making, because under his guidance, the Scarlets played some wonderful rugby, running more powerful outfits ragged by playing an open, off-loading game.

Some fans will be looking for more of the same, but does Pivac has the personnel in the Welsh squad to do it at the very top level? One thing we do know is that a fit Jonathan Davies was important to the Scarlets (and to Wales, of course) and Pivac will have to do without him for the Six Nations. Ditto, as they say, for Rhys Patchell - also likely to miss the Six Nations.

Aaron Shingler was another big player for the Scarlets in their great year, but he has had injury trouble too, so can Pivac look to him?

The key question is, can Pivac coach any group to play that positively, or did he join the Scarlets when they had the right personnel?

Well, there did seem to be some answers to this question in the game against the Barbarians. The days when the Baa Baas over-indulged on tour are long gone, and they tackled fiercely and were a threat when they had the ball in hand.

However, the Welsh back line looked threatening right from the off, and Jarrod Evans looked really accomplished when it came to getting the line moving.

Does he do this for The Blues?

He has the happy knack of threatening to go for the break and passing late to the centres, giving them more room. He made Hadleigh Parkes look a yard faster than he was in Japan and the two wingers, Josh Adams and debutant Johnny McNicholl, had plenty of opportunities.

The game proved to be a pretty brutal test of fitness. The Baa Baas opened with a non-stop attack lasting a minute and a half, and when Wales finally got hold of the ball, it was end to end with no break in play until the five-minute mark.

As the two sides tried to get their breath back, Jarrod Evans went blind, ghosted through a gap and fed Josh Adams. Perhaps Adams could have passed inside to Evans, but the Welsh left wing knows where the line is these days, and stood up full back Shaun Stevenson and grounded the ball in the corner.

Leigh Halfpenny split the posts with the conversion.

On 18 minutes, it looked as if captain Justin Tipuric had scored after a smart grubber kick through by scrum half Tomas Williams. Unfortunately, Aaron Wainwright was about a foot ahead of the kicker when the TMO took a look at it.

We were seeing a lot of Wainwright, playing at No 8 this time. In Japan, he excelled as a defensive No 6, and he has the skills of an open side as well. For this game, Pivac was clearly keen to get him out in midfield, coming at speed onto short passes from his No 10, and he and Evans worked this tactic very well.

However, the Baa Baas were tackling fiercely, and they levelled the game after a fine move that took them upfield. With a penalty advantage, No 10 Curwin Bosch kicked for the corner, and it was perhaps just two feet too long for the winger Cornal Hendricks to take the ball and score.

It was only a temporary respite for Wales though, as No 8 Josh Strauss scored a decidedly non-Barbarian try, using his strength to crash over after being tackled five yards out. Bosch's conversion brought the game level.

To emphasise that it was a serious game, we had a good old-fashioned brawl on 28 minutes, sparked by a hit on Josh Adams that was close to a tip tackle. Referee Nigel Owens stepped in to calm things down, without resorting to a card.

Five minutes before half time, Wales made it 12–7 with a clinical finish. A half break from the scrum by Tomas Williams, to Jarrod Evans and Johnny NcNicholl was in at the corner.

There was still time for Wales to launch another attack, and really fast hands put them almost clear. Eventually, Ken Owens, was forced into touch a yard from the corner flag.

This left Rory Best throwing in for the Baa Baas and something went drastically wrong, as his long throw found Ken Owens all alone in the end zone, needing simply to catch it and fall down!

Halfpenny's conversion made it 19–7.

Just before half time, the Baa Baas' No 7, Marco van Staden, picked up a yellow card, so Wales faced 14 men in the second half. Within three minutes they had made it 26–7, after an excellent handling move involving McNicholl, Halfpenny and Shingler, which ended with Ken Owens scoring his second try.

Four minutes later it was even better for Wales, as Williams took a quick penalty, made 30 metres at pace, and he must have been surprised to find prop Wyn Evans in support! Evans did his Hadleigh Parkes impersonation, putting Josh Adams in for his second try. Halfpenny converted again to make it 33 - 7.

Soon after, the substitutions started. Gareth Davies repaced Tomas Williams and Sam Davies replaced Jarrod Evans. It's fair to say that the former substitution worked better than the latter.

On 54 minutes, the Welsh backs' defence went awry, and Curwin Bosch slipped through a huge gap. He could not convert his try, making the score 33–12.

They scored again four minutes later when Bosch kicked low to the corner and a wicked bounce went over Halfpenny's head for Shaun Stevenson to score. The TMO and Nigel Owens debated whether Baa Baas wing Dillyn Leyds had impeded the Welsh full back. You had the feeling that in a close game, they might have called it a foul, but the try stood and the conversion made it 33–19.

There was no great concern for Welsh fans at this point, and they soon scored again. Tomas Williams had had a good game, and this stirred Gareth Davies to show what he could do. He made a sharp blind-side break, and squirmed out of the tackle to reach out and ground the ball. Another Halfpenny conversion made it 40–19.

The game seemed safe but the Baa Baas were not prepared to lie down. Prop Craig Millar went over under the posts, and then a flowing move was brilliantly finished by Schalk Brits, who flipped the ball inside so flanker Pete Samu could go over.

Suddenly, it was 40–33 to Wales.

There had been an emotional send off for the Irish hooker, Rory Best, playing his last ever game before retiring. His replacement, Schalk Brits, was also retiring, and he enjoyed the last 10 minutes. Wales had returned to the attack in an attempt to make the game safe, and they had a penalty just five metres out. Tipuric elected to go for the scrum, but Brits and his fellow front rowers engineered a series of collapsed scrums, grinning from ear to ear until Nigel Owens read the riot act.

Even then, Wales could not secure clean possession and in the end, Tipuric instructed Halfpenny to make the game safe.

All in all, it was a good day for spectators, and a good day for Pivac. We saw a back line that moved the ball quickly and with intent, and half backs Williams and Evans were a big part of that.

On top of that, we saw some fine handling among the forwards, and there was a great moment in the first half when props Wyn Evans and Dillon Lewis handled like Fijians!

Not the Scarlets of two years ago, but a few steps along the road to that promised land.

The Six Nations should be very interesting.

Bridgend Athletic cut loose against 'Nanty'

Luke Bevan goes over for his second try. (Photograph by John Canon).

BRIDGEND Athletic were in seventh heaven as they recorded the highest winning margin in Division One West Central this season with a 37-point differential, in outscoring local rivals Nantyfyllon by seven tries to one in a comprehensive 44–7 win.

This moves them level on 28 points and 22 tries with leaders Bonymaen, but the Swansea side have conceded fewer tries and have a game in hand, All 44 points were scored by the backs, determined to silence their critics and their 16 league and cup tries this season is now only one short of the forwards.

Leading the way was man-of-the-match outside half Luke Bevan with 19 points from two tries, three conversions and a penalty. Wing Sam Richards also bagged a brace, with single touchdowns for fellow wing Lindsay McCausland, full back Robin Davies and scrum half Aled Thomas, who played on permit in Nantyfyllon's last season's Glamorgan Count Silver Ball victory.

Nantyfyllon had first use of a strong wind and tactical kicking kept play mainly between the halfway and Athletic 22. In the 20th minute, good work by flanker Sean Williams and elusive running by Bevan took the Athletic into the Nanty 22. It looked like the Athletic backs, playing a penalty advantage with centres Jacob Lloyd and Danny O'Sullivan moving the ball wide would score, but the final pass was grounded. With no advantage Luke Bevan kicked the penalty.

In the move Athletic prop Wayne Fooks sustained a leg injury to be replaced by Nathan Holman. A grubber kick over the Nanty try line from scrum half Thomas rolled over the dead ball line before the chasing Sam Richards could touch down.

Richards was not to be denied. He gathered a Nanty kick inside his own 22 and rounded his opposing wing before reaching halfway. Lock Ben Cording carried on the move and a slick well-timed pass saw Richards run in from 30 metres.

Fellow wing Lindsay McCausland then ran strongly into the Nanty 22. Nanty managed to clear to the halfway line where Athletic full back Robn Davies gathered and ran diagonally, breaking a tackle inside the Nanty 22 to get up and cross for a solo try.

A good run by youth centre Danny O'Sullivan set up a ruck. When the ball was recycled slick passing at half back released wing Richards to step inside his man and cross for his second try.

Nanty tried desperately in the closing minutes of the half to get something from their wind advantage. A final minute scrum penalty five metres out was repelled by the Athletic front row of Holman, Lee Murphy and Matthew Muir (making his 150th First XV appearance), leaving the Athletic with a healthy 18–0 half time lead and the elements in their favour for the second half.

Good early Athletic pressure saw flanker Ben Howe break clear from 22 metres out. A last-ditch tackle halted him, but scrum half Thomas was on hand to pick up and cross wide out for the bonus point try. Bevan converted.

Five minutes later, No 8 Ben Davies broke from the back of a scrum and fed Thomas, who threw a long pass to wing McCausland to cross in the corner to give his side a 30-0 lead.

Two minutes later a flowing back move inside the Nanty 22 saw Robin Davies break the defence and cross the try line – but to the astonishment of the Ath team, coaches and supporters, the referee whistled for a suspected Nanty head injury when two of their players collided trying to halt the move.

When Nanty exerted pressure inside the Athletic 22, a crushing tackle from lock Will Petchell ,on as a replacement for Jonathon Stoker, promptly halted a potential try scoring move. Scrum half Matthew Hobby, youth hooker Ben Owen and young prop Callum Swinford came off the Athletic bench. Good work by Holman, Cording and Hobby released Bevan who glided 20 metres through the Nanty defence to bring up his 50th point this season and add the conversion for a 37-0 lead.

Nanty opened their account with a penalty try for an Athletic infringement at a five-metre scrum.

The final play saw Bevan again showcase his talent as he sidestepped his way over from 30 metres out – adding the conversion for a personal haul of 19 points.

This Saturday, December 7, the Athletic return to Newbridge Fields when Brynamman are the visitors.

The club would like to thank Alan Henson of A L Henson Roofing, a former Athletic Player Coach for sponsoring the Nantyfyllon game.

AB